

J U L I A N A.
K
A N O V E L,

By the A U T H O R of

FRANCIS, the PHILANTHROPIST.

I N T H R E E V O L U M E S.

V O L. I.

L O N D O N.

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TO

Mrs. HASTINGS.

MADAM,

THAT Virtue, in a private station, is a theme for praise, will be as readily allowed, as that the exercise of it, in a public one, is a subject of admiration; when both unite, the example should be held up to applause and emulation, and concealment is equally unjust and impolitic.

Those who claim the envied title of your Friends, attribute to you, without reserve, Tenderness, Compassion, Charity; and those who have been witnesses of your conduct, in the splendor of greatness, bear the most unsparing testimony to your Munificence, Generosity, and Humanity, nor will the voice of Gratitude

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titude cease to proclaim truths of which it has felt the force.

It may be contended, that the little story, for which I now solicit your protection, is, in general, fictitious; nor shall I think it necessary to refute a charge, which, as to one part of it, the universal voice will contradict; that part those who have the happiness to be in the circle of your acquaintance, will be at no loss to discover.

That you may long enjoy the happiness which Virtue bestows, that of being esteemed, admired, and beloved, is the very sincere wish of

Madam,

Your most obedient,

And most humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

J U L I A N A.

A N O V E L.

LETTER I.

MISS MONTEVILLE

TO

MISS LOUISA CHARLTON.

Aug. 177.

IT is now two years since I have been permitted to avow the still unbroken ties of friendship and affection, by which my heart has been inviolably linked to the companion of my infancy and earliest youth, the partner of my innocent joys

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and unmeaning sorrows, my then, and yet, beloved, Louisa Charlton.

But as I am no longer under the same restraint, I seize the first moment of my emancipation from it, to account for conduct which has no doubt given birth to suspicions injurious, though I still hope, not destructive to that friendship, which was for so many years the pride and pleasure of my life; and as in the course of my little narrative, I shall unbosom myself with the utmost freedom, perfectly satisfied that my confidence will not be misplaced, so I shall expect from my dear Louisa, not only for myself, but for those respected relatives by whose means our intercourse and correspondence has been interrupted, and our friendship apparently, though for myself I profess in appearance only, for a length of

of time suspended ; such indulgence, as the foibles and frailties to which human nature in its most respectable state is subject, will have frequent occasion to demand.

My father, (I believe you never saw him above twice,) was a cadet of a noble family, but like most other younger brothers, he inherited only a very small fortune to support a spirit which would have dignified the greatest : he was esteemed proud by his equals in rank, because the inferiority of his fortune had inspired him with a suspicious jealousy of notice and civility, and he required a much more punctilious observance of both than he would have exacted with his brothers title and estate ; by his inferiors he was idolized, as he carefully avoided offering to others, those insult-

ing flights which he so much dreaded himself, and treated the lowest tradesman with whom he had dealings, with as much respect, and much more ceremony than he would have paid to a Duke: Add to this, that he was scrupulously just and punctual in his payments, and you will have the idea of a very unfashionable Man of Fashion.

But the virtues of my poor dear father (whose memory I revere, though I am at this instant the victim of his pride and obstinacy) were rather calculated to gratify the world at large, than to benefit his own family; the magnificence of his wishes acted in constant warfare against the mediocrity of his worldly possessions, he maintained his consequence at an expense which his finances could not support,

port, and his wife and daughter were sacrificed to his justice and generosity.

At the age of twenty-eight, my father, then a lieutenant colonel in the army, and commanding a company in the foot guards, paid his addresses to my mother, the daughter, as you know, of Sir Leighton Arabin, and having received such encouragement from his mistress, as gave him no reason to entertain a doubt of success, he applied to her father in form, who readily sanctioned his pretensions to his daughter; but at the same time informed him, that as he had two others, as well as a younger son, he could only afford to give 5000*l.* with the lady of his choice, though if he thought fit to accept her with so small a portion, his parliamentary interest might possibly throw some weight into the scale.

My father's fortune had been originally double the amount of that which he was to receive with his intended lady, but at least one half of it had been already dissipated; and as the united fortunes of both would hardly admit of a settlement, my grandfather contented himself with taking a bond from my father for payment by his representatives, of 10,000 l. to my mother in case she survived him; and the marriage took place immediately; Sir Leighton, who was himself an open, liberal, and unsuspecting man, having thought it wholly unnecessary to extend his apprehensions to exigencies, of which, as they had never affected himself, he could form no idea.

Thus, then with a reasonable stock of love, for it had really been a match of liking on both sides, and a fortune of

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ten thousand pounds, my father improvident, expensive, and incautiously generous, my mother young, thoughtless, and totally unpracticed in every species of domestic economy, did this young couple set out in the world, with the most splendid notions of dress, equipage, and a table, derived from the extensive establishments of Lord H——, and Sir Leighton Arabin.

As I was not born till about three years after the marriage, they proceeded in the unchecked career of pleasure and profusion; their coach was the standard of elegance, their liveries the criterion of taste; the parties of Mrs. Monteville were unrivalled in their style, and happy were those who could find means to be admitted to a circle which all the world envied; their suppers were the subjects

of universal admiration, and Colonel Monteville's side-board was as distinguished for choice and excellency of wines, as his table for exhibiting delicacies the most difficult to be procured, and dainties of the highest price. My mother's box at the opera was secured at the earliest moment of subscription, and my father's name stood foremost in every contribution to fashionable and expensive entertainments.

But the event which gave me to the world, having of necessity suspended these several operations of joyous extravagance, and my mother's natural understanding, which though only cultivated with modern and fashionable acquirements, was capable of the noblest impressions, and was by this circumstance turned to rather more rational considerations,

rations, he having pointed out to her the necessity of investigating the situation of their affairs, she requested my father, who still retained the sincerest affection for his wife, and manifested it at this moment of her separation from the gay world, by confining himself in a great measure to her chamber; that he would call in accounts of all his own debts, and permit her to do the like as to those which concerned those branches of the domestic expenditure that fell more immediately within her superintendance, that they might regulate their future expences in such a way, as neither to involve themselves in difficulties, or their offspring in distress.

Alarmed, but not offended, at a proposition which, by way of inference, suggested ideas of past imprudences and un-

warrantable disbursements, my father immediately acceded to it, and at the end of a week, all their accounts being adjusted, and allowance made for the discharge of all incumbrances which at present affected them, they had the mortification to discover that their whole capital was irretrievably sunk, and that it would be necessary for them to raise at least fifteen hundred pounds to set them free of engagements which their principles as well as regard to their reputations would require them to satisfy.

They now for the first time gave way to serious reflections ; they found themselves wholly unable to pursue their present expensive plan, but they were also equally incapable of forming any other either for the purposes of retrenchment in their establishment, or of providing a fund

fund for its support ; unused to apply to any other considerations than those which might direct the propriety of any measure as to its consistency with his rank and figure, my father found it impossible to undertake tasks which appeared so replete with difficulties ; and unaccustomed, till the present moment, even to guess at the expence of any particular article, or to enquire into the amount of their general out-goings ; my mother, though perfectly well inclined to execute the office, wanted every qualification which was necessary to form the character of an œconomical and frugal housekeeper.

But, in the present emergency, some decisive step was to be taken, and applications to Sir Leighton Arabin and Lord H——, for their interests to procure some lucrative appointment for

my father, being suggested and approved by both, my mother undertook to open to Sir Leighton the situation of their affairs, so far as might be necessary to engage his immediate attention to their request; and my father consented, for the first time in his life, to solicit a favour from a brother, with whom he lived, on very distant terms, for very obvious reasons, Lord H—— being as remarkable for a degree of parsimony, which bordered on meanness, as my father was for liberality to almost the contrary extreme.

As Sir Leighton Arabin was no stranger to the extent of their original fortunes, and had always remarked how very disproportionate their income must be to their expences, though he was too much a man of the world to interfere with

with the concerns even of his daughter's husband, the application neither excited surprize, or displeasure ; on the contrary, he assured his daughter that she might rely on his utmost exertions, that he would immediately demand a private audience of the minister ; and that, as he had never himself accepted any gratification, though he had almost invariably supported the measures of government, he could not suffer himself to suppose, that this, his first suit of any consequence, would be rejected.

And as my father thought it prudent to mention to his brother, the readiness with which Sir Leighton undertook his recommendation, Lord H——, more from pique than affection, entered into the views of his brother, and engaged to second the solicitations of his father-in-law,

law, with a promptitude and alacrity equally unexpected and acceptable.

The influence of this united effort was too great to be withstood, a promise was obtained, and performed, as soon as a vacancy happened in the department which had been particularly pointed out, and in which my father very shortly succeeded to an employment, the emoluments of which amounted to, at least, fifteen hundred pounds a year.

Though this was an income abundantly adequate to all the purposes of comfort, and under proper management, even to those of elegance; yet it was, by no means, equal to their former course of fashionable dissipation. To reform was a work of difficulty, and my father was either too high-minded, or too indolent, to attempt it; but my mother, whose

reason

reason was by this time matured, and whose passions were now directed to the most amiable exercise of maternal tenderness, convinced that it was a work of necessity, engaged in it with ardour; and, in a very few weeks, presented to her husband an estimate of their future expenditure, which excited his astonishment, and filled his mind with gratitude and admiration.

By this estimate their equipage was retained, though the number of their servants was reduced; my mother having proposed to discharge her own footman to invest her woman with the office of housekeeper also, and to pay off a kitchen maid; so that their establishment was now to consist of four women; and as many men-servants, my father's valet de chambre, and groom, being expressly excepted

excepted from the number of the servants who were to be discarded; the country house was also given up, and a summer excursion to a watering-place proposed to be substituted in place of that costly indulgence; and though my good mother thought fit, in her calculations, to omit her opera subscription, and every article of the like kind which concerned herself, yet she had enumerated with the most critical attention, and on the largest possible scale, the amusements and gratifications of my father.

But I am summoned by my mother, to attend her in her evenings walk; and, indeed my packet would be so much swelled, if I should pursue my narrative without interruption, that I should not without difficulty find a conveyance. I shall, therefore, resume it occasionally, and

and dispatch my letters as opportunity offers.

But I cannot dispense with your silence, my dear Louisa, even while I can continue my story to its period, write therefore, if you still continue to love me, if it be only as many words as will tell me so ; the professions of regard which will be dedicated by my Louisa's truth and sincerity, will be more precious than volumes—I come, my dearest mother ! fond indulgent parent ! kind protectress ! liberal benefactress ! directress of my youth ! guardian of my honor ! partaker of my sorrows ! gentle soother of my woes ! Counsellor, adviser, and tenderest monitor ! I come—adieu my Louisa, and gratify me with assurances that time has not effaced from your remembrance. Your affectionate,

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

LETTER

LETTER II.

MISS MONTEVILLE

TO

MISS LOUISA CHARLTON.

Arc. 177.

My dear LOUISA,

THOUGH the wishes of my heart for the renewal of our correspondence, and the revival of our friendship are yet in part unaccomplished, yet I shall resume my narrative, and continue it, till you either acknowledge the share I claim in your affections, or tell me my communications are unacceptable; in either case I shall be compelled to break off, though in the former only whilst

whilst I indulge the pleasing recollection of past scenes of innocent enjoyment, in the latter with the mortifying reflection that the only merit of Juliana Monteville, her constant and unaltered regard for her beloved companion of her childhood and youth, was held of too little value to retain the friendship of her ever esteemed Louisa Charlton.

The sale of my father's commission was a step necessary to be taken previous to his acceptance of a civil employment, and the sum raised by this means proving more than sufficient to set them free of the world, they had the advantage of entering on their new, and greatly increased income, without any incumbrance to burthen it, and with a sum of money in hand sufficient to prevent the anticipation of any part of it.

For

For a few months, the necessity of adhering to the system they had adopted, and the novelty of the plan, induced my father to keep very strictly within bounds, but as the former was no longer within immediate view, and the latter wore off by degrees, inclination again took the lead, suppressed wishes and desires broke out afresh, and in spite of all the remonstrances of my mother, who never once lost sight of the object on which she had set her heart; at the end of a twelvemonth, things were pretty nearly in their former situation, the principal difference being that my mother's parties were much less frequent, and that she positively refused to give her name to any subscription, contenting herself with now and then visiting public places, and assigning as a reason for her general retirement.

tirement from them, the duty of superintending the care and education of her infant daughter.

My father survived his appointment near seventeen years, in which time instead of laying by a part of his income for his wife and child, or attending to the care of those helpless relatives, not only the remaining part of the price received for his commission was totally expended, but debts were contracted to the amount of many hundreds more than his effects would extend to pay, so that at his death my mother and myself were left without the smallest provision ; and, to add to our misfortunes, Sir Leighton Arabin had been some years dead, and Lord H—— who was many years older than his brother, had, at a time of life, when he could no longer be supposed to be

be governed by passion, been led by whim, or caprice, to marry a young woman of low birth, and totally porti-onless; but who had gained so complete an ascendency over him, as to leave no room for hope to his unfortunate sister-in-law and niece.

But I am hurrying over a period which so nearly concerns myself that, as I have declared my intention to have no concealments from my Louisa, I must pause here, and recur to circumstances which have involved the heart of your Juliana in difficulties and distresses, which time seems rather to augment than diminish, and from which she cannot entertain the most distant expectation of relief.

Among the families who visited at our house on public days, was that of Sir George

George Falconer, which consisted of himself, his lady, two sons, and a daughter, three out of the five truly amiable, but not particularly distinguished by the favor of my father, who objected to the newly received title, and obscure origin of the Baronet, as blots which prevented his enrollment on the list of those who were to be honoured with his friendship : my mother, less scrupulous in this point, held them in high esteem, for though their line of ancestry might not be deducible from a very distant period, or graced with splendid names, or brilliant titles, yet she had too much candour to infer from this deficiency, that they must be wanting in sense, honor, or virtue, articles, in her opinion, much more essential to real dignity, than pride of birth, or genealogical consequence.

William

William Falconer, the second son, had been originally designed for the bar, and had prosecuted the study of the law, about three years, both at the University and in town ; when, at the instance of an uncle, lady Falconer's brother, who was engaged in a very extensive commercial line, his destination was, very much to his own satisfaction, changed, and he set down in the accounting-house of Mr. Caryl, to acquire the knowledge of traffic, and the rules and customs of merchants.

It was very shortly after this period that our acquaintance with the family commenced, William Falconer was then about nineteen, and I had just entered my sixteenth year ; without being what is commonly esteemed handsome ; his person was elegant and pleasing ; his hazel eyes were

piercing

piercing and expressive, and a smile of complacency, which accompanied every word that fell from his lips, bespoke a heart tender, susceptible, and amiable.

And such, indeed, was the heart of William Falconer ; with the nicest sentiments of honor, and the most manly and determined spirit, his predominant characteristics were gentleness and affability ; he was submissive to his seniors and superiors, attentive to those of his own age and condition, and graciously condescending to his inferiors and dependants ; he spoke in a key modulated by the sweetest temper, and softened by general philanthropy ; yet he could be loud in maintaining the cause of injured innocence, and warm in vindicating the rights of the aggrieved, and the oppressed.

Ill-fated Falconer ! unhappy Juliana ! why, why did we ever meet ? or why were we doomed to feel the pangs of despair, the horrors of disappointed, forbidden, hopeless love ? first and eternal object of my affections, in thy grave lie buried all my joys, in thy tomb rest all my wishes ! never, never again can my breast entertain another guest ; never again can my heart yield to the soft impressions of a passion, which merit like thine, unequalled merit, could alone have inspired ; a passion as pure as thy angel thoughts, blest spirit of my beloved William !

Excuse, my dear Louisa, the wanderings of a mind, which, though resigned to wretchedness, and long schooled in sorrow, is unable at all times to calm itself into perfect submission, or to maintain

maintain itself in a state of composure; spite of reason, religion, and conviction that all my complaints are unavailing, the transports of grief will sometimes force their way, nor will the torrent be checked by all the powers of self-applied argument, or the sweetly maternal soothings of my most honored and revered parent.

At the first of our parties to which the Falconer family were invited, accident, or inclination, or perhaps both, kept William Falconer and myself disengaged from the card-table: thus circumstanced, common civility required that he should pay attention to me, and he was too well acquainted with the forms of politeness to be wanting in respect, or observance: as I had never seen him before, I considered his as-

fiduities as the mere effects of good breeding, and neither regarded his person, as remarkably pleasing, or his conversation as particularly entertaining ; yet, when we were both called on to supply vacancies at different tables, I felt a kind of regret at the separation, and looked round, with a wish, of which I knew not the meaning, to discover when Falconer should be again disengaged.

I was, however, first at liberty, and the universal favourite, Sir Charles Bailley, having also cut out, it became his province to entertain me ; and if my sentiments had corresponded with those of the company, I might have enjoyed the pleasure of having excited universal envy.

But I felt myself neither gratified, nor pleased ; accustomed to common-place praise,

praise, and the dull repetition of unmeaning flattery, and unimpassioned rapture, I had been used to return a laugh for a sigh, and an acknowledgment for a compliment; but now, for the first time, I found the usual theme disgusting; the admiration of my beau became tiresome, his vows and protestations failed even to amuse me; and, in the comparison between the frippery small-talk, with which I was at this moment tormented, and the manly, sensible, and delicate expression of William Falconer, the poor baronet sunk so low in my esteem, that I had hardly patience to listen to his incessant prattle, nor the most distant inclination to encourage it by a single smile.

After an attempt to railly me on my supposed want of spirits, and an effort

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or two to be witty, without the success of provoking a frown, or a smile, he was luckily rescued from apparent chagrin, by an appeal from a lady, who played at the same table with Falconer, and who had charged him with the loss of a vole, which she attributed wholly to his inattention.

A recapitulation of the circumstances of the game having convinced the baronet, that the accusation was well founded, the culprit pleaded guilty, and offered, by way of atonement, to surrender his cards, and his interest in the poole, to the by-stander, who, piqued at the indifference with which I had received this conqueror of the fair, accepted the proposition, not more to the satisfaction of the dowagers who made up the set, than to mine; who, by this means,

means, got rid of my May-fly, and again enjoyed the conversation of Falconer, till the breaking up of the party.

From this moment you can better judge of the situation of my heart, than I can describe it; on recollection, I found Falconer's person exactly to my taste; on reflection, I discovered that his conversation was sprightly, though perfectly rational, his approbation of me delivered in terms neither offensive, or adulatory; it was evident, I thought, that he spoke from *his* heart, for *mine* bore testimony to his sincerity; I wished to meet him again, yet he had been, by no means, particular in his address to me; he would have used the same language to any other young person of the company, and have paid the same homage to her real, or attributed charms:

but his sighs had told the tale of love; yet why must I suppose they were directed to me? some lovelier lass might have possession of his heart, and his sighs might escape for her, and be excited by humiliatory comparison.

Such were the doubts, the fears, the hopes, and the apprehensions with which the hitherto undisturbed bosom of your Juliana was agitated, during the remainder of a night which has proved fatal to her repose, and doomed her to everlasting disquietude and misery.

But what was my astonishment, when, the next morning at breakfast, my mother mentioned an invitation she had received, in which I was included, to spend two or three days with Lady Falconer, at a little villa, which had been recently purchased by Sir George, on the

the banks of the Thames, and signified her wish, that my father might approve of her accepting it, and how did my little heart beat with anxiety during a pause of a minute or two, which succeeded this communication ?

My father, at length, though apparently with some reluctance, desired my mother to gratify herself in this particular, as he always wished her to do on every occasion, as he had too much reason to be satisfied with the strength of her judgment, not to leave her, at all times, in the free exercise of it; a compliment which my mother returned by a general acknowledgment of his indulgence; though, in this instance, it had been accompanied by a sarcastic observation, that these new-fangled gentry were mighty fond of making pur-

chases in the vicinity of the metropolis; and, indeed, for the best reason in the world, as they were in those cases, sure that the greater part of their neighbourhood would be composed of persons as obscure as themselves.

On the following morning we set out, and arrived at Sir George's house to dinner, where we were received by the good lady, her daughter, and eldest son; but, to my utter disappointment, I saw nothing of William Falconer, nor was his name mentioned in the course of the day, during which I was pestered by the civilities of his eldest brother, who thought it necessary to pay his court to me; though, I perceived, and rejoiced in the observation, that he was actuated rather by a wish to shew his perfect acquaintance with the forms
which

which fashion had prescribed, than by any impressions in my favor. He considered me as a vain, foolish, giddy girl, and treated me accordingly, his whole conversation being made up of the most nauseous flattery, and hyperbolical compliment.

Mr. George Falconer was the very reverse of his brother, a strange mixture of pompous pedantry and coxcomical affectation, his language high-flown and bombastic, his manners stiff, ceremonious, and overbearing, himself the theme of his own praise, the idol of his own worship; yet was this motley being, this party-coloured gew-gaw, the pride and darling of his mother, whilst the consistent, modest, sensible, diffident William, with ten times as much sense, and ten thousand times more good qualities,

lities, was kept at a cool distance by this partial parent, and hardly noticed, but as the brother of his inferior in every thing except the right of succession.

As the anxiety produced by my disappointment, had affected me too severely to allow me undisturbed rest, I awoke at sun-rise, and determined to indulge myself with a walk on a delightful terrace which faced the river, till I should either be summoned to breakfast, or be disturbed by the approach of the heir apparent, who had honoured me with an invitation to accompany him, in his morning perambulation, "through grounds in which he had endeavoured to display his taste, and which only wanted my approbation to render them the envy, as they were already the admiration of the neighbourhood."

But,

But, as I was thoroughly satisfied that I should be little disposed to applaud works of his creation, and wished not to offend, when it might not be in my power to approve, I thanked him for his gracious intentions, but determined to avoid the occasion of shewing a particular dislike to him by my disapprobation of his supposed improvements, and proceeded on my walk long before my 'squire, or any of my family, were stirring.

As I passed through the hall, I observed a book lying on the marble table, and looking into it from curiosity, found the name of William Falconer inscribed on the first blank leaf, it was a volume of my favourite Shenstone's; but when I tell you that I made it the companion of my little excursion, you will probably

bly be inclined to believe that I was influenced by some other motive than mere regard to the author.

After a turn or two on the terrace, I discovered a little winding walk, among roses, syringos, and lilacs, which led me to an arbour placed immediately behind the western extremity of the terrace, and close to the edge of the river; it was almost intirely covered with honey-suckles, and surrounded by a hedge of sweet-briar; a variety of birds were warbling in the sprays around it; and to me, who had been many years almost a total stranger to such scenes, appeared a paradise of sweets, a retreat sacred to love and meditation.

I looked at my watch, and it was now just seven; it would not be necessary for

for me to dress for breakfast till eight; and I resolved to enjoy this delightful spot, and my book, for the intermediate hour.

As I glanced through the leaves of the volume in pursuit of the School-Mistress, a poem, which I always read with peculiar pleasure, as often as this author falls in my way, a loose paper fell from the book on the ground, and as I picked it up, I observed it contained some stanzas, which on comparison, I had reason to believe were in the hand-writing of the owner of the volume. I read them, and had no doubt but they were intended as a remembrance of myself---peruse the following, and judge if I could mistake.

Though

Though sweet the breath of damask rose,
When vernal rays its buds disclose,
And Zephyr wafts the rich perfume ;
Though gay the tulip streak'd with gold,
When summer funs its leaves unfold
Of varied tints in vivid bloom,
The humble Lily of the Vale
Unnoticed by the passing gale,
More pleasing sweets to me supplies,
And clad in Nature's simplest dress,
Her robes more elegance express,
Than gaudy glare of Tyrian dyes.
And more my Julia's charms delight
My ravished sense, my raptured sight
When modest blushes paint her cheek,
Than all the fashionable grace
Which art has lent to Cloe's face,
Though every air the ton bespeak.

It was at this moment that I perceived the extent of the interest which William Falconer had in my heart, it was now that I gave way to emotions which it was no longer in my power to suppress.

press. Amiable Falconer ! I exclaimed, and are those thy sentiments of the happy Juliana !—sweet, elegant, sensible youth ! little dost thou conceive the love and admiration with which thou hast inspired a bosom, which never yet heaved a sigh but for thee !

At this instant a rustling among the leaves, called off my attention from the charming manuscript, I lifted up my eyes from the paper, and before me, at the entrance of the arbour, silent and motionless, stood the subject of my apostrophes.

It is as impossible for me to describe my confusion as to relate what followed ; on his side all was love, gratitude, and protestations ; on mine, silent acknowledgment, and yielding reserve ; young, artless, and sincere, I received with delight

light his vows of everlasting constancy, and in return surrendered to him a heart which it was no longer in my power to retain.

As we returned towards the house, he explained to me the occasion of his sudden and early appearance in that spot—He said, he had received intimation from his sister of our intended visit to his father's house in the country, and had obtained his uncle's permission to meet us there on the preceding day, but the arrival of a West-India fleet had filled the desks with business, and detained him in the accompting-house till break of day, when finding much more inclination to pursue his journey than to retire to sleep, he had mounted his horse, and arriving at the house before the family was in motion, had turned his beast into

into the stable, and directed his steps to this little bower, which had been restored to its present state chiefly by his own hands, the late owner of the house and plantations, having suffered it to go to decay.

The arrival of lady Passingham and her daughter, who were invited to meet my mother and myself, proved a seasonable relief to William Falconer, as well as me. I had informed him of his brother's assiduities, which, though they excited no jealousy, gave him great uneasiness, from the apprehension that he would insist on taking upon himself the offices of my conductor and protector, but we were eased of all anxiety on that score by the appearance of Miss Passingham, whose fortune of 50,000l. had much stronger claims on Mr. George Falconer's

Falconer's attention, than those personal accomplishments of mine, which had been hitherto subjects of his praise, and which now remained unsung, and almost, if not altogether, unnoticed, to the great satisfaction of a pair of lovers, whose minds were unbiassed by sordid views, and uncorrupted by motives of interest.

Freed from this interruption, W. Falconer was, of course, my gallant; we were coupled in our walks, fishing parties, and dances, and we enjoyed, without the most distant suspicion of any branch of the family, an intercourse which rivetted our mutual affection, and rendered it so permanent, that it has even outlived the grave. Ah! wretched, cruel, hard hearted Juliana, that could survive the youth whose life fell a sacrifice.

crifice to his love, truth, and fidelity to thee !

But the delicate regard of my Falconer would not submit to be confined to a private or concealed communication ; before we left his father's house, he asked and obtained my permission to lay before his parents, and mine, the situation of our hearts, and to solicit their sanction to engagements which, though they might not think it prudent to ratify for some time, he apprehended they could not disapprove, as Sir George Falconer had offered him free latitude of choice, respect being paid to the connection only, without any regard to fortune ; and my father's circumstances were so well known, that he could entertain no suspicion of being unsuccessful in his application to him.

He

He scrupled not, therefore, to open to his father, not only his own wishes, but the progress he had reason to apprehend he had made in his suit to me; and that indulgent parent, whose affection for his younger son remained unwarped by the partiality of lady Falconer towards the elder, was so far from disapproving his choice, that he undertook to obtain the consent of his uncle Mr. Caryl, on whom he had a considerable dependence; and then to break the matter to my father; kindly assuring him, that want of fortune on my part should be no obstacle to the accomplishment of his hopes, as he would make up the deficiency; and take upon himself also the care of establishing his son in his profession, the moment he should be qualified to pursue it; exacting only

from

from him a promise, that he would not attempt to accelerate an union, which, however agreeable it might be to all the parties, could not with any propriety take place for a year or two.

And to this restriction Mr. William Falconer readily gave his assent, for so as he could keep the prospect of happiness in view, he was content that the possession of it should be placed at some distance; he was a passionate, but a rational lover, and his regard for the object of his affections was too sincere, and too disinterested, to urge him to seek the gratification of his own inclinations, at the risque of her future comfort and welfare.

Pleased at first with the propriety of his son's communication to him, and doubly satisfied with his ready acquiescence

escence in the delay he had proposed ; Sir George Falconer lost no time in complying with the requests of his son, but on the very next day, in consequence of an appointment, previously adjusted, an interview took place between him and my father ; and Sir George, with the candour and liberality which marked his character on every occasion, laid before my father, his son's wishes and hopes, adding, from himself, his resolution to make him comfortable in point of fortune, without an enquiry into that of the lady to whom he had surrendered his heart, whose merit, charms, and connections, he politely said, might intitle her to fill the highest rank, and possess the most splendid fortune.

Generous and disinterested as was this proposition, it met not my father's probation,

probation, of the motives which actuated a parent's conduct it behoves me not to judge severely; perhaps he might be influenced by pride of family; perhaps, he might be piqued by the hint which, however tenderly, glanced at my want of fortune; or he might, possibly, be hurt by the recollection that his own indiscretions had placed him, in this instance, in a point of inferiority: but, whether his mind was impressed by either of these, or by some other sensation beyond my conjecture, certain it is, that, instead of receiving with tokens of esteem, if not of gratitude, offers so unusually liberal, my father coldly and distantly replied, that he was obliged to Mr. William Falconer for the preference he gave to his daughter, and to him, Sir George, for the trouble he had taken in commu-

nimating his son's sentiments; but that his daughter could not be disposed of without the consent of his brother, and other branches of the family, of which she was at present the only representative; and as they might possibly be of opinion, which he confessed was his own, that Miss Monteville might expect to find a husband of the rank in life which her ancestors had held; he hoped Mr. William Falconer would turn his attention to some other quarter, where his merit, and recommendations, might be unquestionably acceptable, and his applications successful.

Fired with resentment at a repulse so unexpected, and conveyed in terms so very disrespectful, Sir George Falconer assured my father, that he might spare himself any anxiety on the score of his son's

son's pretensions to Miss Monteville's hand, as he should injoin him, as he valued his paternal regard, never more to visit or correspond with that lady, whose personal qualifications, he added, had been his only inducement to concur with the wishes of his son, his own judgment being totally against a connection with over-weening and unnecessary haughtiness ; and he left the house before my father could make a reply to a reflection so plain and unequivocal.

In consequence of this rupture, I received a like injunction from my father, accompanied with the severest denunciations of his wrath, if I should ever give the most distant encouragement to the man he had thought fit to reject ; and some strictures on my having admitted the addresses of the son of a mushroom

D 2 baronet,

baronet, whose name would only have been recorded in the parish register, but for the paltry monosyllable which purchase had authorized him to prefix to it.

You, my dear Louisa, will better conceive, than I can describe, the horrors of this shock; young, tender, and susceptible, my heart had received impressions which no parental decree could efface; and, as no doubt had been suggested of the possibility that my father could disapprove of an engagement so highly advantageous to me, I had given way, without restraint, to the indulgence of hopes, which I was now capriciously and unjustly doomed to abandon, and, with them, all expectations of happiness, as my regards had been fixed on too solid grounds to be shaken off at pleasure,

sure, or to yield to the mandates of my misguided inexorable father.

The first immediate effect of this dreadful interdiction, was a violent hysterical fit, which was succeeded by stupefaction, from which not all the powers of medicine could rouze me, till it ended in a fever, of so doubtful an aspect, that my hitherto unmoved parent, betrayed some signs of remorse for the ungentle manner in which he had communicated to me tidings so obviously destructive to my peace of mind, and subversive of all my views of happiness; not that he appeared at all disposed to recede from the resolution he had communicated to me, and which had occasioned the danger he lamented; on the contrary, he, even in this perilous moment, when scarce a hope of my life

D 3 remained,

remained, persisted in his declarations that no child of his should ever disgrace the family from which she sprung, by sacrificing the dignity of birth to the dirty considerations of interest, or the ridiculous energy of female attachment.

But youth, and a good constitution, triumphed over bodily disease, and, at the end of three weeks, I awoke to a recollection of my own sorrows; and, to the joy of my parents, and in particular of the kindest, the tenderest, the most affectionate of mothers, I was pronounced, by my medical attendants, so far out of danger as to require only air, exercise, and mental tranquillity, to complete my recovery.

By the help of the two former, my health was soon nearly re-established, but my mind still remained a prey to despair; nor

nor was my anxiety lessened by the perusal of the following letter, which my indulgent mother had the goodness to put into my hands, as soon as she apprehended I might be acquainted with the contents, without endangering a return of the disorder, which had threatened such fatal consequences :

“ **To Miss JULIANA MONTEVILLE.**

“ To tear my heart from its seat in my bosom, would be a task which resolution might enable me to attempt ; but, to efface from it your beloved image, would be an effort as vain as it would be ungrateful : No, my dearest Juliana, neither the duty I owe to the best of fathers, or the respect I bear to his parental authority, can ever induce me

to forego a claim which I will not depart from, but with my life; be you, my beloved, equally constant, and hours of happiness may yet, however distant, be in store for us; cherish, in your gentle bosom, the remembrance of him who desires only to live for you, and who braves the keenest of all human sufferings, absence from the object of his dearest, his unalterable regards, from the fond hope that, at some future day, he may be permitted to avow a passion, which neither length of time, or distance of place, will diminish.

“ For oh! my Juliana, before this letter can reach you, your Falconer will be divided from you by the ocean, over immense tracks of which he is doomed to wander, far from all he holds dear, and in pursuit of what his heart despises;

but

but let me be calm for a moment, that I may explain to you my wretched situation.

“ On the day following that on which your father so cruelly, and contemptuously, rejected the suit so kindly preferred by mine, my uncle asked me, if I had any disinclination to a voyage ; to which I replied, not the least ; he then informed me, that he had received a commission from the agent of one of the Princes of Indostan, to purchase for him certain articles of great value, and from which he might derive very considerable advantages ; that the India Company had signified their consent to the exportation of these commodities ; that it was absolutely necessary that some respectable person should take the charge of delivering them at the Court of the Nabob, by

whom he would, undoubtedly, be received with esteem, and liberally rewarded ; that he apprehended this appointment would not only be highly beneficial, but extremely pleasing to me ; as, in addition to the favour and recommendation of the Nabob, he could procure for me the countenance and protection of the Governor General of Bengal, by letters, of which I should be the bearer, from the Company here ; and that his brother's son, already settled at Calcutta, would be ready to welcome me on my arrival, and give me all the advice and assistance which I could desire, or he could command. And now, my dear William, says this always indulgent relation, unwilling as I am to part with you, I cannot resist the temptation of throwing in your way a fortune, which seems

seems already made to your hands ; nor will you, I believe, think less highly of my affection for you from an offer, which, though it separates you for a short time from your friends, will restore you to them loaded with riches ; and, according to the opinion which I have formed of your integrity and abilities, covered with honor.

“ Though it was impossible for me to decline a proposition so replete with advantages of every sort, yet the manner of my accepting it was much too ungracious to pass unnoticed by Mr. Caryl, yet he affected neither to observe my chagrine, nor to feel disappointment ; for, on my faintly returning him thanks for the confidence he was disposed to place in me, and the regard he had shewn for my welfare, he clapped me on the back,

said, I was a young man of spirit, and deserved the fortune I should certainly acquire; and telling he was going to dine with my father, bid me get my hat, and accompany him.

“ But in my way to Berkeley Square, all the horrors of this fatal engagement assailed my mind---to abandon my Julian-a, to seek for that happiness in wealth which was only to be found in content-ment---to barter every prospect of that inestimable blessing for unnecessary and useless aggrandisement---to forego the permanent and rational felicity of do-mestic enjoyment, for the vague, un-certain, and worthless chance of addi-tional pomp and dignity, when all the real satisfaction which riches could be-stow was already within my reach.... Could reason suggest, or wisdom justify such sa-crifices ?

crifces?---Yet, how could I withstand the solicitations of my relations; or how resist the torrent of ridicule and contempt, which would follow the refusal of such splendid offers?

“ Such were the perturbations of my mind when the carriage stopt at my father’s door, and I was introduced to the congratulations of himself, my mother, brother, and every branch of the family, assembled on this happy occasion; joy lighted every countenance, mine alone was sad---“ such honors,”---“ such a profusion of wealth,”--“ such splendor”--such “ respect!”--every mouth was open--judge, my dearest Juliana, judge of my feelings---My uncle applauding my magnanimity, my father passing encomiums on my spirit, my brother proclaiming my good fortune in strains which approached to envy, and even

even my tender mother, and gentle sister, expressing less approbation at the dangers, than exultation at the prospects held forth by this golden voyage---thus surrounded, thus assailed, no choice left me, no alternative proposed, no question of rejection started, no moment for recollection allowed, borne down by the weight of concurring opinions, and overpowered by strength of irresistible argument, how could your Falconer contend? Yet, it was impossible to yield, my Juliana ever present to my imagination, demanded my refusal. I attempted to speak---my father interrupted me---"and to add to all these desirable, these delightful prospects," says this anxious parent, will not the voyage be the object of your wish, my dear William, when I inform you, that my tender of your hand to

Miss

Miss Monteville has been rejected by Colonel Monteville with scorn, contempt, and ill manners? and when I lay on you the same injunction as that proud and insolent man of quality has imposed on his daughter, that you never see or correspond with each other in future? and to a strict obedience to this my almost first command do I adjure you, as you regard the peace, happiness, or comfort of your contemned, insulted, and injured father."

The measure was now full, careless of my fate I entered into the plan, if not with alacrity, yet with full compliance, yet I struggled for a parting interview with my Juliana, but in this too I was over-ruled, to obtain it was impracticable, to wish it absurd and perverse, as to renew the pangs of disappointed love,
and

and recal hopes which must be for ever abandoned, would be equally cruel to my mistress and myself. Thus again repulsed, hurried from one busy scene of preparation to another, oppressed with the kindnesses of my friends, and inspired with some degree of fortitude by their repeated predictions in my favour; and, at last, trapped on board the ship, under pretence of only inspecting the accommodations which were prepared for me, though she was then ready to sail, and my return to the shore could no more be permitted, with any probability of making the voyage at all, I resigned myself to my wretched destiny, and from the Downs, whence we are to take our final departure, do I convey this letter under cover to my dear father, earnestly intreating him, as a last proof of

of that paternal affection, which, perhaps he may exercise no more, to find some means of having it delivered into the hands of my beloved Juliana.

“ But though banished from my country, and my friends, and separated from all I hold dear, can I abandon the only wish of my life ? can I forget or forego my Juliana ? Oh ! no, my first, my best, my only love, have I not yielded to thee my heart, and received in return thy faithful assurances of inviolable attachment ? And shall I not preserve, to the latest moment of my existence, the inestimable pledge ? By heavens I will, nor shall the dangers of the tempest, the temptations of eastern luxury, the attacks of incurable disease, or the cold hand of death itself, wrest from me the

remem-

remembrance of our plighted faith and love !

“ Farewell, then darling of my heart, my better half, my all of happiness, farewell ! May angels, thy kindred angels protect thee, watch over thee, and guard thee from every ill---May thy pure and spotless bosom be free from every care but one, and may that one be alleviated by the sweet hope of a pleasing though distant period !

“ Hark !---I am summoned---the boat puts off---the ship is under sail---Adieu---my Juliana---Adieu !---I am, I must be thine, eternally thine,

WILLIAM FALCONER.”

Though I yielded to the immediate impulse of grief on the perusal of this letter, yet on more calm reflection I derived from it, a very considerable degree of

of comfort, abandoned by hope, I had given myself up to despair, but encouraged by the soothing flattery of expectation, I first, aided by my wishes, reasoned myself into the possibility, and at length into the probability of a favourable change in my prospects---I represented to myself the return of my Falconer, with all the predictions of his sanguine friends, accomplished---I formed, in my mind, pleasing ideas of the obviation of my father's scruples by his acceptance of acquired fame, as an atonement for hereditary consequence--- And I amused myself with visionary schemes of future felicity in the company conversation, and affection of the most worthy and amiable of human beings.

But

But from this dream of happiness I was too soon awakened, by a calamity, as grievous as it is irretrievable, a calamity which has weighed down my soul with affliction, and rendered it incapable of ever rising again to joy, chearfulness, or even comfort.

About three months after the receipt of my dear Falconer's letter, as my mother and myself were at work in her dressing room, my father, who had been taking his accustomed walk before dinner, hastily entered it, to inform us, that he had brought a friend home with him to dine, and to desire my mother would make some little addition to the family provision, and this matter being discussed, he turned carelessly to me, and said "so, Juliana, I suppose you have heard the fate of your old lover, Mr. Falconer, he died,"

died, I understand, the day the ship arrived at the Madeiras."

To what followed I am a stranger, nor did I recover my recollection for many hours, and then only for a few minutes, a frenzy of some weeks continuance afforded me a respite from conscious wretchedness; the violence of my disorder at length abated, and by degrees subsided into a calm, settled, but not irrational melancholy, and from this state I was rouzed by the death of my father, the affliction of my mother demanding such an exertion of my dutiful tenderness to this excellent parent, as under Providence proved the means of restoring me to a certain degree of composure and resignation.

But before I proceed to explain the consequences of this event, it will be necessary

necessary to give you and myself some respite. On the subject which occupies my whole heart and mind, and must ever continue to do so, it is not surprising that I should be minute, but to you, who are uninterested, except in friendship to me, my minutenesses will most probably be tedious ; yet, as I have never yet had an opportunity to unbosom myself, for though I have no concealments from my dear mother, I have too great regard for her peace of mind to obtrude on her too frequently, or too closely the sorrows of mine, I cannot resist the temptation of pouring them into the bosom of a faithful and affectionate friend, for such was my Louisa Charlton, nor will I harbour an apprehension that she can be capable of change.

I shall

I shall therefore pursue my melancholy story, as time and opportunity will permit, my next letter shall be less tiresome, but I cannot venture to promise that it shall be more entertaining, I will however endeavour to get away from myself the moment I have concluded the tale now in relation, and then my correspondence will be less dull, because it will be less prolix.

Meantime I wait impatiently for the re-establishment of our former friendship, which I shall not think perfect till the tokens of it are reciprocal. I can, however, affirm, without reserve, that it is compleat on the part of

Your affectionate,

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

L E T-

L E T T E R III.

MISS LOUISA CHARLTON

T O

MISS MONTEVILLE.

AND is my dearest Juliana Monteville still numbered among the living, and is it still permitted me to call her my Juliana ! then avaunt care ! begone anxiety ! this day, at least, shall be dedicated to joy, and happiness, and Juliana.

But why has our friendship, or rather why has the communication of it been interrupted ? to whose cruel mandate, or to what unaccountable circumstance am I to impute the loss of two whole years of

of my life? look to it my Juliana; parents, friends, or whoever ye be who have wrought me this evil, ye shall not deprive me of so much existence with impunity; I will have revenge great, mighty, satisfactory revenge; I will have explanations, and accountings and apologies, and I demand millions of letters and communications, and histories, and journals, and narratives—my thirsty soul pants with half-satisfied curiosity.

“ The same gay giddy prattling Louisa” you say, the hand of time has been laid lightly on her, though I have felt all its pressure!—tread softly, my Juliana, awake me not, I do but dream of felicity, alas! I too am

“ Writ in four misfortune’s book.”

Though on the unexpected recovery of my long lost, long regretted Juliana, I

can for a moment forget the painful lesson.

And on this day shall no self-pitying sensations obtrude themselves to suppress the joyful emotions of my heart at the receipt of my Juliana's letter, the sweet pledge of unabated friendship, the precious testimonial of unaltered affection—Welcome once more, thrice welcome to my heart, friend, companion, sister of my love!

But my joy is too tumultuous to be confined to the limits of a sheet of paper,—my thoughts are too much on the wing to perch on my crow quill—-I would ask you ten thousand questions, but they are needless—tell me every thing that has befallen you; every thing that concerns your welfare, peace, and happiness, the veriest trifle which affects

affects my Juliana is of importance to her Louisa.

Continue your interesting narrative, rest all your griefs on the bosom of your Louisa, call for her compassion, her tenderness, her active efforts---All, all are yours,---my fortunes are ample, now independently ample, can they contribute to the happiness of my Juliana? She shall command them in any way—have not our hearts been long joined in the sacred bands of friendship? and can we have separate interests?

I am all impatience for your continuation---send your pacquets by post, my earnestness will not break the delay of opportunity---let dull souls court opportunity, mine is on fire---nor can the flame be extinguished, but by the

full and ample communication of all my Juliana's story.

I, too, shall be communicative in my turn, but not minute, Juliana, you must not expect minuteness from your Louisa, you know she cannot recite, yet will she not excuse an iota of omission in you; your

— Abridgment

*Hath to its circumstantial branches, which
Distinction should be rich in —*

Your Louisa's tale is comprised in few words---she saw, and loved---but when, and where, and whom?---you shall know all hereafter---from you she will have no concealments---to you

*She will a round unvanish'd tale deliver
Of her whole course of love —*

Ah!

J U L I A N A. 177

Ah! Juliana, I have betrayed my secret---take it then, and with it all of my heart which yet remains in the disposition of

Your most faithful

And affectionate,

LOUISA CHARLTON.

LETTER IV.

MISS MONTEVILLE

TO

MISS LOUISA CHARLTON.

Arc. 177

HOW sweet is the voice of friendship! how healing the balm of pure and disinterested affection! ought

your Juliana still to be unhappy, when she possesses the greatest blessings heaven can bestow?---a kind, indulgent, affectionate parent, and a tender, sympathizing, generous friend alas! how incompetent are all the choicest gifts of heaven to terrestrial happiness! To this doctrine will my Louisa subscribe; for neither friends, fortune, nor virtue, have shielded her from misfortune; yet, let me hope, that hers is not an irrevocable doom: for her, I trust, the glass of life will again mantle with joy; and the eye, now suffused with tears, once more sparkle with satisfaction. For me, grief, unchangeable, unremitting grief, must be the wretched portion; hopeless, must I drag on a wearied, loathsome life, equally incapable of deriving lasting comfort from the consoling strains of friendship,

friendship, or the soothings of parental fondness.

Yet, let me not deny the mercies of Providence; thanks to the Supreme Dispenser of good and evil, I am no longer estranged from myself; despair has given way to resignation; and religion has inspired me with a hope, which will, by degrees, dispel the gloom that has hitherto surrounded me, and open to me the bright, and now only pleasing prospect of that felicity, which can alone be perfect and uninterrupted.

Nor must I omit my acknowledgments to my beloved Louisa, for those kind and liberal offers which bespeak the very essence of friendship; pity, advice, and consolation, are the ready offerings of the meddling multitude; the easy prices of impertinent curiosity;

the extended hand, and opened purse, are the efforts of genuine regard, and unquestionable proofs of the sincerest affection.

Yet, my dear Louisa, humble as are our fortunes, they are equal to our wants ; and, unless when the necessities of the still more unfortunate, beat at our gate, to our wishes also ; even for these we have somewhat to spare ; wealth, you know, is comparative ; and, in this country, the first degree of it is so seldom visible, and the last so nearly universal, that mediocrity is considerably above your idea of affluence.

But, in my performance of the task, which, at first undertaken to unburthen my mind of some part of its load of sorrows, you have now, in kind indulgence to my wayward wishes, enjoined

me

me to pursue; I shall have occasion enough to display scenes of misfortune and distress to wound your sensibility; and call from the eye, which never refused the gentle tribute of humanity, tears of sympathy, pity, and commiseration.

The eyes of my poor father were hardly closed, before those of my mother, and myself, were opened to the most painful and humiliating prospects; before the body could be interred, the ministers of the law were in possession of the house, and we were perfectly convinced that nothing remained for us, but our cloaths, and the little ornaments of our persons; by the sale of a considerable part of the latter, were the funeral charges defrayed, and a provision made to support us, for a short

time, in cheap, but decent lodgings ; to which accompanied only, by my mother's faithful servant Marianne, we removed immediately after the last offices had been performed to my father.

But in the mean time it was thought right that my uncle Lord H—— should be made acquainted with the melancholy event, as well as with the situation of our affairs, and as my dear mother was too sincerely affected with grief to perform this task herself, it became my duty to undertake it, and as I understood my uncle was at a villa about fifteen miles from town, I dispatched one of our old servants with a letter in which I barely mentioned the death of my father, and the state of his circumstances, without expressing a hope or betraying an expectation of his interference : and to this letter

I re-

I received the following answer, which I have preserved as a specimen of tenderness, and fraternal affection.

“ NIECE,

“ I am sorry to hear of Mr. Monteville’s death, and am greatly surprized at the account you give of his having died in debt---it is impossible to conceive how he could contrive to dissipate his income and create such obligations, he is the first of the Monteville family who ever disgraced himself in this way, and in that respect I am exceedingly shocked, though otherwise I have no concern with his circumstances. I suppose it is intended that his body shall be deposited in the family vault at Monteville Minster, and I shall, by this post, give directions that it be properly received at the castle. Edmond-
son

son has been usually employed in our family as the herald painter on those occasions, and is not only well acquainted with the blazonry of our arms, but is also master of the proper distinctions as to the deceased being a younger brother, &c.

“ You will be pleased to make my compliments of condolence acceptable to Mrs. Monteville, and to receive them yourself with the due regards of Madam,

Your Uncle,

And very humble servant,

H. —.

As this letter was perfectly in character, we received no disappointment, but determined as soon as decency would permit, to make a joint effort in person, both with his lordship, and Sir Edward Arabin, my mother's brother, to induce them

them to interest themselves so far on behalf of their actually distressed relations, as to obtain for us a small pension on which we might exist in some remote corner of the kingdom.

But from this painful task of solicitation we were happily delivered by a circumstance equally unexpected and acceptable, and which not only relieved us from the apprehensions of distress, but rescued us from evils almost alike alarming, obligation, and dependence.

A maiden aunt of my mother's who had resided during her whole life in Yorkshire, but had been my Godmother by proxy, died just at this important crisis of our affairs, and bequeathed to me a sum of twelve hundred and fifty pounds, a part of her portion, which had

had never been paid by her brother, and which now remained a charge on the estate of her nephew Sir Edward Arabin.

As this bequest occasioned some intercourse between my mother and myself, and her brother, in the course of which he became acquainted with the state of our circumstanees, he made me an offer of converting this charge into an annuity of one hundred and twenty-five pounds, to be in the same manner secured on his estate, and paid during the joint lives of my mother and myself, and during the life of the survivor; and this proposition I accepted without hesitation, though not without some remonstrances from my mother, against a measure, which as she chose to

repre-

represent it to herself, tended to lessen the value of my little legacy.

But to me it was more than doubled by the happy use to which I was in this way enabled to apply it, peace, comfort, and an humble provision, were by this means secured to the best of parents; and for myself, all wishes beyond mere competence were buried in the grave of my Falconer.

This business settled, and a receiver appointed, who engaged to remit with regularity our little income to whatever place we might think fit to retire; the choice of our future residence became now an object of consideration, and as a country where we appeared to have no connections, for I had been rejected by my father's relations, and my mother coldly treated by her's, could have

no particular claim on our regards ; and our limited income would hardly answer the purpose of creating those kind of friendships, by which society is in general held together ; we turned our thoughts to a settlement on the Continent where we might live cheaply and obscurely, out of the reach of that degradatory comparison which in the shape of pity would not fail to humble us, by contrasting our present poverty with our former splendor ; and secure from the danger of being tempted to increase our expences, by the fond wish of endeavouring to support the rank we had held in life.

The province of Normandy was recommended to us, as the most convenient part of France, both with respect to its vicinity to Great-Britain, and to the

the probability of being accommodated to our wishes with an habitation which, in other parts of the kingdom, might neither be so easily found, nor procured on such reasonable terms. And having provided ourselves with such a supply of money as would be necessary for our little establishment, by turning our remaining jewels and trinkets into cash, and settled the remittance of our little annuity, we embarked for Dieppe; and, soon after our arrival there, an opportunity fortunately presented itself for our hiring the house, in which we have ever since resided; and, with a description of which, and its environs, I shall conclude this letter.

But, before I depart entirely from myself, it will be necessary for me to account for my two years total silence, and
apparent

apparent neglect of my ever dear Louisa; and, to explain the means by which that correspondence has been renewed, the interruption of which has constituted no inconsiderable part of my unhappiness.

At the commencement of my unfortunate acquaintance with the too amiable Falconer, you were in attendance on your then declining uncle, at Scarborough; nor were you released from that duty till after the death of my father; soon after which event, the loss of your relation was announced in the public papers. At that period our expatriation was determined on; and, as it was apprehended that the unsatisfied creditors of my father might pester my dear mother with applications for payment; and though she was, by no means,

means, liable to his debts, and was totally incapable of discharging them, yet, that repeated solicitations of this kind might be a perpetual source of uneasiness to her ; it was thought adviseable, by Mr. Methold, who not only assisted us with his friendly counsel as a lawyer, but kindly undertook to act as our agent in the annuity matter ; that we should drop all manner of correspondence with any person in England, except himself ; and that, with him, it should be carried on, through the hands of a banker in Paris, on whom we should also have credit for our little income. Nor was it in my power to acquaint you with this circumstance before I left England, as I was, at that time, totally at a loss where to address you, common report having sent you

to

to the South of France, though I now find there was no foundation for the rumour.

But this interdiction was, about three months since, happily removed, by an act of generosity of my uncle, Lord H-----, equally extraordinary and unexpected; that nobleman having, after a nap of two years, awakened to a sense of the family dignity, and discharged such debts of my father's, to the amount of near 2,000l. as his effects would not extend to pay.

From this effort, which Mr. Methold handsomely attributes to a regard for the memory of his brother, he, good man, draws presages, (in which, I apprehend, he is rather too sanguine); favourable to the fortunes of your Julian, his Lordship remaining childless, and

and his male relations being distant, and of the maternal line, so that they have not even a claim to the title.

But the letter, of which I have given you a copy, is to me conclusive against any expectations of being considered as the representative of the family; nor have I a hope, or a wish, to possess fortunes which I could not enjoy: for alas! my Louisa, neither wealth, grandeur, or the respect which follows fortune, can give one moment of happiness to your Juliana, whose prospects of joy are too remote to be affected by worldly endowments; nor would I exchange the cottage, which I am now about to describe, for the Castle of Monteville, or desert the little domestic arrangement with which I may hereafter attempt to amuse you, for all the revenues which are annexed to it.

Our

Our little palace is situated on the bank of a rivulet, which meeting the tide about a league lower, contributes to form the harbour of Dieppe, and is about three hundred yards distant from the village of Arc, rendered far more famous in English than in French story, for having given birth to the Maid of Orleans, commonly called Joan of Arc, who is supposed to have derived this appellation from the place where she first drew birth, and the former from her first scene of action: whether the French historians have considered the whole tale as legendary, and have, therefore, neglected to record it, or have noticed it so slightly as to bring it into contempt; I am not enough acquainted with their writings to determine, but certain it is, that the traditional memorials of it are

so

so generally lost, as not to have left a trace even on the spot where one might have expected to have found the most embellished, if not the most authentic accounts of this heaven-inspired heroine.---From some of the reverend community, who inhabit the little convent at the entrance of this village, I depended on getting intelligence concerning this remarkable personage, but I was convinced on my first enquiry, that my curiosity would have been much more readily gratified, had it been directed to the parings of St. Peter's nails, or the hair of St. John, which continued to grow, long after the head had been deposited in the charger.

Our house consists of a tolerable *salle-a-manger*, a sitting-room, and that indispensable apartment in a French habitation,

bitation a *Bourdoir*—on the ground floor; up-stairs are three pleasant bed-chambers, and a little dressing-room; behind the house is a court-yard, formed by the kitchen, cellar, and other offices, over which are sleeping rooms for servants; in the front is a garden, large enough to supply us with all sorts of vegetables, which it produces in great perfection, as well as fruits of various kinds for our winter as well as summer deserts. And in addition to these accommodations, it is furnished with a profusion of beautiful flowers, among which the roses, honey-suckles, carnations, and jeffamine, are by no means the least conspicuous.

The entrance to the garden, and through that to the house, is, by a gate at the left corner, and opposite to it, a

responding gate leads into a wood, in which the owner and late occupier of this sweet retreat, has opened many little walks in various directions, but each terminated by a distant view of some chateau, steeple, church, or monastic building; and at the extremity of the wood is a rising ground crowned with an arbour, from whence there is a prospect of the populous town of Dieppe, and beyond it of the sea.

We had resided here upwards of a year before I discovered the occasion of a stipulation insisted on by the person who treated for the proprietor, at the time we hired the house, which was a reservation of liberty to pass through the garden, and walk in the wood, once a week during the continuance of the term for which we agreed to take it, and as

the agent assured us that his principal was a gentleman of distinguished character, and somewhat advanced in years, no reasonable objection could be made to such a request.

Nor did we receive the least interruption from these visits, which, as we understood from the labourer who was employed in the garden, were always made at so early an hour of the morning, or so late at night, as not to leave the most distant probability of their interference with our amusement.

But in an evening of the month of August, as my dear mother and myself were returning through the wood from the meadow, which lay between our garden and the river, in which we had been angling, and had met with such unusual success, that we had con-
tinued

tinued our sport as long as we had daylight to pursue it, we observed a gentleman who appeared to have entered the wood by some gate or path behind the arbour, to which we were strangers, advancing towards the garden, which he reached at the same moment with ourselves, and politely opening the gate to us, he apologized for an intrusion, which he intreated us to believe was wholly unintended, and begged permission to assure us, should never be repeated, as he would in future avoid the possibility of giving that offence which he now besought us to pardon, and to obviate every idea of apprehension, he announced himself as "Mons. Beaudesert, the proprietor of the house, which had the honor to afford us a residence."

But my mother so earnestly pressed him to partake of our little evening's repast, that he accepted her invitation, and left us as much pleased with our landlord as we had ever been with his possessions. But as I shall have occasion to introduce this gentleman among the number of our friends and neighbours, my dear Louisa must restrain her curiosity, which I know will be all on foot for an acquaintance with this most agreeable Frenchman, till he makes his regular appearance in the list of his compatriots.

Yet will not my Louisa complain of my imposing such a task on her, when I confess that my impatience to explore the path by which our new acquaintance got access to the wood, drew me to the spot at least an hour before my usual time

time of getting up? And will she not doubt my veracity in describing the state of a heart, which could so easily be directed to trifling pursuits?

Alas! my Louisa, among the materials of which humanity is compounded, consistency is the least powerful ingredient; passion, prejudice, vanity, curiosity warp the mortal mind from its determined purposes; and folly, levity, and novelty divert it from its most serious intents; nor is the mixture of this quality in all cases to be deplored; on the contrary, it sometimes serves for a moment to beguile sorrow of its sting, and to divest misfortune of its malignancy.

Under this happy influence it was that, forgetful of my woes, I directed my steps to the arbour in the wood, and for the first time perceived a path

which had scarce yielded to the impression of footsteps, leading round the rising ground already described; and this path I eagerly followed till it conducted me to an arch formed by yews and cypresses exactly at the back of the arbour: in the center of this arch, a small mount was artificially raised, covered with the finest turf, on the summit of which was placed a square block of perfectly white marble, and from a socket in the middle of it, rose a small crucifix of the same materials;---struck with astonishment at this elegantly awful scene, I doubted whether I should presume to enter the hallowed shade; yet, impelled by somewhat more than curiosity, I ventured to approach the altar; and on that face of it which presented itself to the entrance I read the following inscription:

Confacrée

Consacrée

Aux regrets continuels quoiqu' infructueux

D'un mari, ut d'un pere désolé :

Ô Dieu de miserecorde, inspirez moi

La patience et la resignation !

And in that sacred spot dedicated to sorrow, did your Julian, with hands and heart to heaven up-lifted, fervently and devoutly, join in the dutiful and humble petition, and prefer her prayer for the participation of the supplicated grace.

And here let me break off, and in obedience to your commands dispatch this letter to you by post---to-morrow I shall resume my pen---my spirits will probably be then in a more proper frame to descend to the little particulars which you enjoin me to communicate---Adieu! ---in all dispositions of mind,

I am yours,

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

F 4

L E T T E R V.

MISS MONTVILLE

T O

MISS LOUISA CHARLTON.

AS my letters will for the present be dedicated to the communications which my Louisa has demanded, she will not expect me to confine myself to strict epistolary form, but will permit me to begin without prefatory introduction, and break off without ceremonial conclusion.

Our domestic establishment consists of our ever faithful Marianne, who unites in her person the offices and qualifications of housekeeper, *femme de chambre*,

bre, sempstress and housemaid, and never were these several functions performed with more zeal, readiness, and exactitude; the several departments of cook, scullion, butler, and footman, are worthily consigned to Nicolai Brunon, a bachelor of fifty, a *bigot*, and a *beau garçon*, whose regularity and ceremonious punctuality in the discharge of his duty in our temporal concerns, can only be equalled by his solicitude for our eternal welfare, which he conceives to be in a very perilous state whilst we remain without the pale of that church, whose protection can alone ensure salvation: and this care of our perishable and immortal affairs, honest Nicolai extends to us for an annual gratification of one hundred and twenty livres, or five guineas---to which we have added a present of a Louis

d'or at the expiration of each of the two years, during which he has remained in our service; and on this moderate stipend does he contrive to exhibit a full dressed coat, and a tamboured waistcoat on Sundays and holidays, to a very strict observance of which, he is directed by religion and inclination, for Nicolai's mind would undergo no inconsiderable degree of doubt and difficulty if it was left to him to determine whether he should neglect the celebration of high mass, or the consequent dance on the green.

Our table is most plentifully and reasonably supplied; soup and bouilli, you know, is a constant dish, and the universal food of the servants and lower classes of the people, I mean of such as can afford to procure it--with fresh fish we are furnished daily from Dieppe, and game.

game and poultry are offered at our door, in such abundance, and at such prices, as would astonish an English œconomist ---our wine is laid in at the expence of less than sixpence the bottle, and cyder at a rate below that which is paid for small beer in England. Our income when liquidated into nominal coin of this country, amounts to three thousand livres a year, our house rent is ten Louis d'ors, and our wages to both servants sixteen ; to which may be added two or three more for the care and cultivation of our garden, and these sums computed together reduce our annual receipt to about two thousand three hundred livres ; thirty livres a week defray every expence of the house, wine, tea, (in which we indulge) fuel, and the hire of a little peasant girl and her ass, who for three sols a day, carries our letters

ters to Dieppe, and brings back those necessaries which cannot be purchased nearer home; as to cloaths, many years will elapse before we shall have occasion to consider that article as burthensome, so that after every requisite expenditure, we have a reserve of from seven to eight hundred livres, for purposes which constitute all our pleasures, and the principal part of our amusements.

For though this of Normandy is one of the most fertile provinces of France, and rich in the production of all the necessaries of life, yet is it replete with scenes of poverty and distress, to which those who have never quitted the happy island which contains my Louisa, or who having quitted it, have pursued the paths marked out by rank and affluence, without descending from the height on which

for-

fortune has placed them; must ever remain total strangers: scenes not confined to the dwellings of the low born peasant, or the humble mechanic, but too often displayed in the ruinous mansions of reduced nobility, whose pride of birth, and dignity of family are almost their only remaining possessions, and the hope of transmitting them to their posterity, uncontaminated with the wealth which honest industry might acquire, almost their only care.

Nor are these unfortunate sufferers, the deserved objects of censure or ridicule; inspired from their earliest infancy with a high sense of the value of rank, and taught to consider it as infinitely preferable to wealth, and independence, they submit to hard fare, scanty meals, and the miserable appearance of affected gentility,

tility, for the supreme felicity of turning a bourgeois from the wall, and weaning a sword, which rusts at their side, for want of the means to dedicate it to the noble purpose, for which the envied distinction was originally intended.

With families, in precisely the situation I have described, does this province abound; and as, even these marriages, must be contracted with a due regard to rank only; so, totally unlike the nobility of another country, the nobleffe of this are precluded from bartering high blood for plebeian opulence, and the union is composed of poverty and dignity; the female offspring of which is devoted to pine in convents, if they can happily obtain admission to them; and the male to lives of total idleness, un-

less

less they can fortunately make their way into the army; in which case they may enjoy the honour of starving on subaltern pay, if they do not contrive to better their fortunes, by means to which a Frenchman of family will have few objections, though he would reject, with scorn, a proposition to establish them on honest trade, or honorable commerce.

That the lower classes should be exposed to all the horrors of want and wretchedness, will be easily conceivable, when we recollect that the rich, of all denominations, are confined to the capital, except that, in a very few instances, they may be found in the most considerable trading towns; but not in numbers, by any means, proportioned to those who move in the atmosphere of the Court. The nobleman of large possessions,

possessions, is attached to the vicinity of the royal residence, by some inconsiderable office, which confers on him the invaluable privilege of breathing the same air as his sovereign ; and, gratified by this shadowy mark of his favour, he yields, without repugnance, to the motive for which it was granted ; and, deserting the habitation of his ancestors, he lives, with his family, in the metropolis, and commits the management of his lands, and the collection of his revenues, or, perhaps, farms them, in gross, to some needy and greedy agent, who parcels out his power to others, till the actual occupiers of the farms are so compleatly oppressed, that, having no landlord at hand to whom they can apply for redress, they sink into the lowest abyss of poverty ; and, betaking themselves

themselves to a degree of labour to which they have been unaccustomed, they are invaded by sickness, and become dependant, for a miserable existence, on the bounty of the religious orders, who have often little to spare ; and, more frequently, less inclination to part with even their superfluities.

Another cause of the impoverishment of the lower orders of people, is, the collection of the public revenues. These, you need not be told, are all farmed, and the unlimited power of the *farmiers* delegated to tax-gatherers ; who, in their turns, are to produce certain stipulated sums ; to enforce the payment of which, they are also invested with uncontrollable authority ; which, in almost all instances, is applied not merely to the purposes for which it is granted, but to the gratification

cation of their own insatiable rapacity. And, as the distribution of the public burthen is, in some measure, left to these locusts, the hand of industry is restrained, as the acquisition of property only exposes the possessor to the partial depredations of these merciless under-strappers.

And to these causes may be added, and that not the least, the tyranny and avarice of churchmen and religious ; who, not content with having got into their hands a very large portion of the landed property, in letting which to farm they pay no regard to the comfort, or happiness, of those who are to cultivate it ; levy contributions on the most indigent, extorting from them, under denunciations of divine displeasure, a very considerable part of their scanty earnings, to pamper

pamper the appetites, and feed the thriftless idleness of these lazy and luxurious drones.

Not that I would be understood to pass a general censure on the clergy of this country, many of them, and in particular of the parish priests, lead their lives in the performance of acts of exemplary piety, and in the exercise of all the virtues which the doctrines of christianity have inculcated; but few such patterns are, I am apprehensive, to be found in monastic societies, where intrigues and cabals, formed to attain that pre-eminence to which they all aspire, supercede the consideration of their sacred vows, calling them back to that world which they have so solemnly renounced, and diverting their attentions from those duties, to the discharge of which

which they have devoted their whole lives.

Nor, from the melancholy picture which I have drawn, must you infer, that, in this country, happiness is confined to those of the first order. From the gloom which I have represented, the natural gaiety of the people bursts forth, and, bidding defiance to poverty, tyranny, and oppression, the enlivening ray kindles the smile of content, and lights up the fire of vivacity; at the sound of the tabor and pipe, every eye sparkles with satisfaction, and every breast glows with sympathetic pleasure; age and youth join in the dance, and misery and infirmity give way to the joyful sensations of the moment.

And, though divested of the solid comforts which are the almost certain rewards

wards of honest industry, in every part of Great Britain, yet there are not wanting here, certain substituted enjoyments, which serve to relax the severity of care, keep alive the emblem of hope and expectation ; such are the festivals enjoined by the church, the name-day of the saint to whom the parish church is dedicated, the feasts of the harvest and cyder-pressing (for this province affords no vintage) and, in some places, the birth-day of the *seigneur* of the village ; and the returns of these days of festivity are looked forward to as the anniversaries of happiness.

The natives of Normandy are, in comparison with those of other provinces of France, remarkably stout and athletic, resembling in figure, as well as in feature and complexion, their transplanted

planted countrymen, the English; and the names are, for the most part, so similar, as to leave no doubt, that the greatest part of the inhabitants of South-Britain, are derived from the Normans stock; an opinion which will be strengthened by a comparison of the tempers and dispositions of the Normans and Englishmen, to neither of whom do I mean offence, when I venture to pronounce them equally warm, impetuous, brave, and sincere.

And now, in the regular order of answering my Louisa's enquiries, I should give her some account of the manner in which our time is employed, in this absolute retirement from the gay and active world; but as, in the course of this account, names will occur, to which she is an utter stranger; I shall, in my next,

next, introduce to her our Norman friends and acquaintance; beginning, as I am persuaded she would wish, with the Chevalier Beaudesert, for whom, I am convinced, she has already conceived an esteem, and in whose story she expects to be interested; nor will she be disappointed, if justice is done to it, in the recital, by

Her most affectionate,

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

LET-

LETTER VI.

MISS MONTEVILLE

TO

MISS LOUISA CHARLTON.

MONSIEUR le Chevalier Beau-
desert is somewhat above the
middle age, his appearance bespeaks
fifty, though probably warm climates,
mental disquiets, and a sedate, or rather
serious cast of countenance, may have
added four or five years to the actual re-
gister. He must have been in his youth
extremely handsome, for neither the tar-
nish of external exposure, nor the pangs
of heart-rending anguish have robbed his
eyes of their lustre, discomposed the sym-
metry

metry of his features ; if I should describe him in my own way, I should say he is a goodly looking gentleman, and by this general description, my Louisa will fully comprehend the person and figure of my favourite and friend.

He was born (I shall preservye as nearly as possible his own words) a gentleman and a beggar, that is to say, he was the younger of two sons of one of those noblesse, whose situations and circumstances were the subjects of my last letter ; but at fifteen an old Marechal du Camp, who was his mother's great uncle, procured for him a commission in a regiment of infantry, and he was turned into the world without a Louis d'or beyond his pay, or any hope of preferment, his relation dying almost immediately after his appointment.

After five or six years service at home, the regiment was ordered to the French settlements in Asia, and in the passage from Port l'Orient to the Isle of Bourbon, which was their immediate destination, the beauty and merit of Mademoiselle de Sancré, daughter to the Major of the battalion in which he served, made such an impression on his heart, that though still a subaltern, and without even the hope of means to provide for a wife and family, he yielded to the dictates of his passion, and having breathed his vows to the gentle Sancré, and found her not obdurate, he boldly demanded her in marriage of her father, grounding his pretences only on the warmth of his own affection, and the kind return of his beloved Theresa.

At

At such a demand a miser would have stormed, and a selfish man been outrageous; but different were the emotions of the generous Major, he did not disapprove of his daughter's choice, but he blamed the imprudence of her and her lover. "My dear boy," says this liberal veteran, "it is impossible for me to refuse you as a son-in-law, because your birth is noble, and your character unstained, but how is the gift you solicit, to be disposed of, and where is the provision for her existence? Love and a knapsack are very speculative ideas, but carry them into practice, and difficulties will arise, which neither tenderness can avert, nor mutual affection conquer: your pay will not, without the strictest œconomy, answer the purposes of your own subsistence, how then will you di-

vide it? And can you without horror represent to yourself the object of your dearest regards, the partner of your heart, and perhaps the pledges of your love, overwhelmed with distress, which you are unable to remove, and surrounded by wants to which you can afford no relief? Reflect, my dear Beauchamp, on the consequence of such an union, exert your reason in manly efforts to resist the impulses of an imprudent passion, convince my Theresa that honor, justice, and affection, require you to call back your vows, and release her from her engagement; and dedicate to the duties of your profession, that youthful warmth, which has hurried you to the brink of a precipice, from whence you must retreat with a caution, to avoid a fall which

will

will prove equally destructive to your interest, and your peace of mind.'

But whilst the worthy Major inculcated from his lips lessons of prudence and worldly wisdom, his heart yielded to the wish of uniting his darling child to a young man, of whose truth and honor he entertained not a doubt; and with whose moral as well as military character he was well satisfied; and whilst the unhappy Beau desert, and his amiable mistress were deplored the disappointment of their hopes, and lamenting the cruelty and partiality of fortune, which had induced her excellent father on grounds too reasonable to be controverted, to place the bar of his persuasive authority between them and the happiness which they had fondly promised themselves, was this disinterested and af-

affectionate parent employed in devising the means of securing to them the permanent enjoyment of that felicity, which would be interrupted by difficulties, and diminished by distress.

Monsieur le Majeur de Sancerré inherited, under the will of an uncle, a small demesne, which laying contiguous to the lands of his elder brother, the possession of it became the object of his wish; and he, at several times, made overtures to the Major for the purchase of it; but as the soldier had seen enough of military promotion, to discover that his interest was unequal to that of many younger men, who, without the merit of long or distinguished services, were daily passing over his head to the ranks to which his wounds and grey hairs failed to recommend him; and

and had intended, therefore, as soon as he could retreat with honor, to retire with his beloved daughter to this spot, and to pass the evening of his life in watching over the interests of this only object of his care, he had declined accepting very liberal offers made by his brother, to whom the purchase was so important, that he had at length proposed to the Major to name his own price for it. . .

By the first opportunity which offered, he now dispatched an authority to his agent in France to concur with his brother's wishes in the disposition of the land in question, and to place out the purchase-money, which he knew would amount to about sixty thousand livres, on the best security, and at the highest rate of interest he could procure for it; di-

recting the securities to be taken in the name of his daughter; and assigning, as reasons for this direction, his own age, and the hazards of the service.

A year now past without any alteration in the circumstances of the lovers. Abashed by the tender, affecting, and candid advice of Monsieur de Sancerré, the still languishing Beaudesert had forbore to reiterate his applications; and, to avoid giving pain to the best and most indulgent of fathers, his visits to his mistress were discontinued, though they contrived to have interviews in private, when they renewed their vows of everlasting fidelity, and mingled their tears for their unfortunate and hopeless fate.

Nor was Monsieur de Sancerré unacquainted with these meetings; though, for

for reasons, which he did not think fit at present to communicate, he rather chose to permit this stolen intercourse, than to sanction with his avowed approbation, a connection, against which he had so formally entered his protest.

But a ship arriving from Europe, which brought letters for most of the officers, and, among others, the accounts expected by Monsieur de Sancré, from his agent, who had completed the business in which he was employed, to the perfect satisfaction of his correspondent. Monsieur Beaude fert received an invitation to breakfast with the Major, and his daughter, the following morning; when, after apologizing for the delay of happiness, which his advice and injunctions had occasioned, this generous parent ten-
dered

dered Mademoiselle de Sancerré's hand to her astonished and enraptured lover; and, at the same time, delivering to him an abstract of the securities which he had received from France, he told him, that he should no longer oppose their union, as the lady could now bring him a fortune, which would obviate all his former objections; "and now, my dear children," continued this truly amiable man, "I have done with the world; and, as soon as the sword is sheathed, and my country no longer requires my poor endeavours, I shall retire on the little pension with which my royal master will reward my humble services; and spend the remainder of my days in cheerful and thankful contemplation on the happiness I have been enabled to confer on a pair, who are only

only worthy of each other, and invoking the blessings of heaven on you both."

The marriage was immediately celebrated ; and, about a year after, Madame Beaudesert conferred on her parent and husband the titles of grandfather and father, to a lovely girl ; and, very soon after her recovery, the regiment was ordered to Pondicherry, on which place, it was apprehended, the English meditated an attack ; and some ships of force arriving to transport it, Major de Sancerré, his daughter, son-in-law, and grand daughter, embarked in the same vessel, which was commanded by an intimate acquaintance of Monsieur Beaudesert, a lieutenant in the navy, to whose friendship this happy family were indebted for accommodations ;

tions; which, in the ordinary course of this service, they could not have expected.

Their voyage was prosperous till they were within a few days sail of the coast of Indostan, when the vessel was separated from the fleet in a gale of wind, and driven considerably out of her course; and, on the third day after the discontinuance of the storm, whilst they were busily employed in repairing the injuries which had been received by its violence, several sail of ships were observed bearing down on them, which they, at first, apprehended to be a part of the convoy; but they were very soon convinced that they were enemies, by the eagerness with which they pursued the chace, and the preparations which they could discover for action.

As

As they were too much disabled to seek their safety in flight, the gallant commander, his crew, and the military passengers, of all ranks, prepared, in their turn, for a defence, which, notwithstanding the disparity of their force, honor would have dictated, if they had not been impelled to it, by motives which respected the actual preservation of their lives; as they were, by this time, satisfied that the foe, with whom they were to contend, was that notorious pirate who had so long infested the coasts of India; and who, enriched by his depredations on the trade of all the nations of Europe, had actually possessed himself of territory, and created a sovereignty, in which he governed with absolute and despotic authority, putting to the sword many of those

who

who unfortunately fell into his hands, and making slaves of others, the males being employed on the fortifications of his capital, and the females devoted to the purposes of the seraglio.

The situation of Madame Beaude-sert may be more easily conceived than described: she was conveyed, with her infant child, and her female attendant, to that part of the ship which was least exposed to danger; where, in all the horrors of anxiety, she was to wait the event of the dreadful and doubtful conflict.

Long and bloody was the contest; but, though the defence was maintained with all the ardour, which bravery, and the love of life and liberty could inspire, yet the strength and numbers of the assailants prevailed; and, after every officer

officer in the ship had been killed, or wounded, and the vessel herself was reduced to the condition of a wreck, she was surrendered to these lawless barbarians.

Both De Sancerré and Beaudesert had fallen, covered with wounds; nor did the latter recover to sense, or recollection, till the succeeding day. Alas! what inexpressible torture did the return of reason inflict on him; he demanded his wife and child; but his attendants were totally silent: he called upon his friend, the father of his Theresa, but he was not in a condition to answer him: he attempted to quit his bed, but he was restrained by those about him, from an effort which must have proved instantly fatal to him: he raved, without effect, for information, till

till his senses gave way to the tumultuous agony of his mind, and he fell into a delirium, accompanied by a violent fever, which threatened the most alarming consequences.

But the vigour of his constitution triumphed over his wounds, and even his disease; and, at the end of twelve days, he awoke to recollection, and to the horrors of a tale which could no longer be concealed from him.

He was now informed that, soon after the pirates had taken possession of their prize, she was discovered to have received so many shots in her hull, and to be so completely disabled in her masts and rigging, that there was little probability of her ever reaching their port; and, as the commander of these pirates had no inclination to risque the

lives

lives of any of his own people, in an attempt to navigate this shattered vessel, he contented himself with stripping her of every thing valuable, or useful ; and, taking with him the stoutest and most robust of those among the crew, who had escaped the dangers of the engagement, and the unfortunate females, with the infant ; he had turned the ship adrift, leaving the wounded, and a few of the weakest and most unpromising of those who were unhurt, to seek that mercy from heaven, which was so cruelly and wantonly denied by these remorseless savages.

Among those who were left in the ship were the surgeon, and his assistant, who the moment she struck had disguised themselves in the habit of common seamen, from a well-grounded apprehension,

prehension, that on the concealment of their professions depended their only hope of avoiding perpetual captivity, the skill of European surgeons being too important to a banditti, whose practices must subject their persons to continual danger, to afford the most distant prospect of release to any such who should fall into their hands ; and it was the surgeon to whose care and attention the ill fated Beaudesert was indebted for his life, who now undertook the painful task of acquainting him with the wretched destiny of his beloved wife, and infant daughter.

But he was so weakened by pain and sickness, that his passions, incapable of violent agitation even by this excruciating tale, yielded to the storm of misfortunes which assailed him, and he sunk.

funk into silent despondency, mourning in secret his wretched fate, and struggling to suppress emotions which he knew would add to the sorrow of his equally afflicted friend and parent, the disconsolate De Sancerré.

Regardless of their future fate, this unhappy father and husband, paid no attention to the dangers which surrounded them, or the difficulties through which the ship was at length brought in safety to the harbour of Pondicherry, but the investiture of that place by the English, and the operations of a defence, in the course of which their most active exertions were called for, and, though unsuccessfully, employed in the discharge of their duty during a tedious and fatiguing siege, in which the horrors of war were heightened by those

of

of actual famine, roused them in some measure from an inactivity of mind and depression of spirit, which threatened, by continuance, to become habitual.

After the surrender of Pondicherry, the garrison were, according to the terms of the capitulation, conveyed to France, and on their arrival, Mons. de Sancerré, who, added to the pressure of age, and the pain of uncured wounds, now bent under the weight of uneasing and hopeless grief, having succeeded in his application to quit the army, with a gratuity for his long and faithful services; retired to the province of which he was a native, purchasing with a part of those sums, which being no longer useful to the unfortunate Beaudesert, he had insisted on being permitted to return to the father of his lost Theresa,

the

the house in which we now reside, where he dedicated his life to the offices of religion, and the performance of such acts of humanity as his fortune would permit; till about three years after this event, when his son-in-law, who was most deservedly dear to him, formed a resolution also to follow the example of his friend, and his merit and misfortunes having recommended him to a moderate pension, and the much coveted badge of long or distinguished services, he joined Mons. de Sancerré, not only in his retirement, but in his employments, devoting himself to the care of that virtuous and venerable parent, and alleviating the distresses of his mind, and the pains of his bodily infirmities, by every exertion of the most laudable and exemplary tenderness, and extending his dutiful

dutiful and affectionate attention to the last sad offices of humanity.

But the death of Mons. de Sancerré, which happened about two years since, having released him from engagements, which served in some measure to blunt the edge of his own afflictions, and at least to divide the stream of sorrow; his melancholy increased to a degree so alarming, that his friends, and even in this retirement, the purity of his life, his inoffensive manners, and his entertaining and improving conversation had procured him many who were proud to acknowledge the title, urged him to enter again into the world with such vehemence of persuasion, that he was compelled to yield to arguments founded in reason, and supported by such warm and disinterested friendship; and the Mar-

quis

quis de Suzaincourt; the governor of this part of the province, having procured for him an employment in the citadel of Dieppe, he removed to that place, and entered on the duties of his appointment, about three months before our arrival on the continent.

And now, my dear Louisa is no longer at a loss to account for the altar of grief, raised by this most amiable and unfortunate husband, and dedicated to receive the constant offerings of his tears for calamities which not only deprived him of those blessings which constituted the whole happiness of his life, but extending to the unquestionably wretched fate of those who were much dearer to him than his existence, produce a scene of such complicated distress as cannot fail to excite that species

species of compassion, which can alone be afforded to evils remediless in their natures, and beyond the reach of mortal aid, or any other than momentary alleviation.

Nor will she be surprized to hear, that the visits of the Chevalier Beaude-sert to the shrine of his lamented Theresa, and the unfortunate pledge of their ill-fated affections, have been rather more frequent since our discovery of the unhappy event by which they were occasioned: the unfortunate are apt to associate; and similiarity of circumstances begets sympathy, mutual pity, and consequent friendship; and such has been the case with us; we have not concealed from the afflicted Beaude-sert the story of our woes, and have accompanied him to the altar of sorrow.

Within

Within a short mile of the village stands the antient castle of Suzaincourt, which has, for the last ten years, been occupied by Madame le Marquise de Suzaincourt, the widow of one of the greatest generals and ablest statesmen of his time ; but neither glory, nor ambition, could steel his heart against the shafts of love ; like other conquerors he yielded, in his turn, and became the willing captive of the fair and amiable Mademoiselle de St. Melory, the daughter of a president of the parliament ; and, though without the pretensions of rank, or fortune, worthy the choice of the gallant and generous Suzaincourt.

For eight years they enjoyed an uninterrupted course of conjugal felicity ; till the Marquis, being called from the Cabinet to the more active services of

the field, was compelled to sacrifice his domestic happiness to his duty; and, having taken the command of the army, and conducted it to immediate action, the same courier brought accounts of a complete victory, and the loss of the gallant commander, who fell, at the moment of conquest, covered with wounds and glory.

The world had no longer any attractions for Madame de Suzaincourt; one son only remained to represent his lamented father; to him she transferred all the affection which had been placed on her beloved husband; and, devoting herself entirely to the care of his person and education, she retired to this castle, drawing to it, by the most unlimited liberality, the best masters of different sciences for his instruction.

And

And never was the solicitude of a parent more amply rewarded; nature had been equally bountiful to the young Marquis, in exterior and internal gifts; to a person remarkably pleasing, were added all the graces of modern exercises and accomplishments; and talents of the first magnitude were enriched by an uncommon stock of useful and elegant learning; and, at sixteen, the Marquis de Suzaincourt was held up to all the youth, not only of the province, but of the kingdom, as an example of genius, judgment, and literature, uniting to form a character of the most distinguished lustre.

But, to his excellent and affectionate mother, who was as intimately acquainted with his virtues as his accomplishments, his praise rose still higher: she knew

him to be a dutiful and observant son, a sincere and faithful friend, a kind and indulgent master, a liberal benefactor, a munificent patron, a pleasing companion, and an honest man: she knew too, and trembled at the fatal recollection of experienced woe, that, with talents equally brilliant, he possessed all the ardour, all the thirst for glory, all the great ambition of his father: she foresaw that he would tread the path of his honoured parent, and she dreaded consequences again destructive to that peace, to which reason, religion, and the exercise of maternal duties, had, in some measure, restored her.

And now the moment arrived when all her apprehensions were to be realised; a messenger from the court brought the Marquis an appointment in the regiment
which

which had once been commanded by his father; it was a distinguished mark of the royal favour, and he received it with enthusiastic rapture, as the earnest of fame and honor.

Nor did he encounter even a look of discouragement from his admirable mother; though, penetrated with the most acute anguish at the dreadful summons, she sacrificed her sensibility to her duty; and, preferring the reputation of her son to her own domestic happiness, she affected to congratulate him on the notice of his sovereign, and, in language very different from that which her feelings would have dictated, she presaged victory with safety; and promised to water, with tears of exultation, the laurels with which his brow would be encircled at his return.

The close of the first, and three succeeding campaigns, restored him to her arms in health, and with accumulated honor: entitled, by his birth, to promotion, his claim to it was sanctioned by distinguished merit; and, at twenty, he held, unenvied, a rank in the army, which, high as it was, he enjoyed rather as the reward of service, than the gratification of his pretences, founded on nobility, or the result of interest.

But, in the fifth campaign, this amiable mother was destined to endure the severest pangs of grief, terror, and suspense. The Marquis had solicited and obtained the command of a detachment, which was to be employed in a difficult and hazardous enterprize. He succeeded in the attempt; but, having been desperately wounded in a short, but decisive

decisive action, he fell into the hands of the discomfited enemy; and, at least three months had elapsed, before Madame de Suzaincourt was informed, with certainty, that her beloved son had survived the immediate dangers of the field, though his wounds yet remained in such a state as to render his recovery doubtful: and, to add to the misfortune, the Marquis having obtained leave from his captors to return to France for the cure of his wounds, and having, for that purpose, taken his passage at the nearest port, his weakness having made it adviseable to avoid the fatigue of travelling: the vessel, in which he had embarked, was made prize of by an English cruizer, and he was conveyed to our native island, where he remained nine months before he was in a condition to

avail himself of the generous offers of liberty ; which, in consideration of his rank, and the situation of his health, were made him almost immediately upon his landing in Great-Britain.

He has now been returned to his anxious parent about two years, and is perfectly recovered from the injuries he received in battle ; yet appearances, and the state of his spirits, bespeak either want of health, or disquietude of mind ; for he is thin, pale, and obviously dejected ; alterations which Madame de Suzaincourt places to the account of the fatigues and pains which he has endured in the service ; but which your friend, who is, perhaps, somewhat eagle-eyed on such occasions, is ready to impute to a more tender, though, perhaps, less remediable cause.

In

In short, my dear Louisa, I am convinced the Marquis has received an arrow from the blind ruler of our destinies, but not one directed from the eyes of your friend; for, though, from the extreme warmth of the friendship which exists between our parents, and, from many hints occasionally thrown out by each of them, I am inclined to believe a family connection would be, by no means, unacceptable; yet I am too well acquainted with the language of love to read, either in his looks, or address, a single strain pointed to your Juliana: that his heart is somewhere engaged, I have not the most distant doubt; his sighs, his absences, his reveries, are symptoms of love, which an adept cannot mistake; but, happily for me, the inevitable blow has been received from another quarter, and

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I have escaped persecution, which must have been the case had his choice fallen on her whose heart will never admit of a second love; and who would have found no little difficulty in resisting the importunities of a fond and indulgent mother, on behalf of one of the most unexceptionable, and, perhaps, amiable men now existing.

But, though the Marquis makes no advances as a lover, yet, I verily believe, we regard each other with a very high degree of friendship: for my own part, I am ready to treat him as a brother, and to unbosom to him my sorrows, and my hopeless fate, but that I am restrained by a reserve and concealment on his, which extends to every circumstance that might lead to a developement of the state and condition of his mind; nor

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has he been more communicative to Madame de Suzaincourt; who, as I have already observed, attributes his apparent indisposition to causes very different from those by which it is actually occasioned.

And, highly as I esteem this worthy young man, I cannot help entertaining painful apprehensions that his entanglement is of such a nature, as either to deprive him of hope, or to restrain him by motives of prudence, from giving encouragement to it: And does not his total silence, even to his mother, justify my friendly suspicions? And does it favour too strongly of *L'amour propre*, to observe, that, among the sufferers by the tender passion, far the greater number are rendered unhappy by too great a degree of sensibility, or by the exer-

tion of those principles which adorn and do honor to human nature ?

Madame de Suzaincourt, and my dear mother, are inseparable ; indeed, we spend much of the greater part of our time at the castle, where our *partie quartée* is frequently increased by the company of le Chevalier Beaudesert, and the Curé of the parish, M. Bondit, one of the worthiest and merriest beings alive.

About three months after we were settled here, an industrious labourer had the misfortune to fracture his thigh, by a fall from a stack of corn : this country affords no provision for the poor ; their whole sustenance being derived from the charity of religious communities ; who, to do them justice, are, in most instances, more

more liberal than they are generally allowed to be; but the only convent, within two leagues of this village, is a small one of Capuchins, which I have formerly mentioned; and this order, you know, is devoted to poverty, by the vow of admission. As the poor man had a large family, and was generally well spoken of, we administered to their wants, and to the comfort of the sufferer, in such a way as our scanty finances would warrant; and we were amply rewarded by the fair prospect of the poor man's recovery, and the benedictions of his affectionate wife, and infant family.

But our remuneration did not stop here; about a fortnight after the accident, as we were at breakfast in the fallé a manger, our Maitre d'Hotel, honest Nicolai, without the least notice

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(for Nicolai is ~~too~~^{too} good a son of the church, to doubt the welcome of his pastor) introduced to us M. Bondit, the Curé, with whose person only we had hitherto been acquainted ; who, with equal simplicity of manners, and elegance of address, requested our permission to make himself known to his new and already esteemed parishioners ; " for, Madam," says the good man, addressing himself to my mother, " though our religion is supposed to confine our hopes of salvation to the pale of our own church, yet the limits of that fence are not so accurately described as to exclude from it any of those who concur in the practice of christian virtues, however they may happen to differ in opinion from us, as to forms and ceremonies ; and as your God and mine has taught

taught us both to cloath the naked, feed the hungry, and cherish the sick; and as you are eminently distinguished for your obedience to these heavenly commands; I consider you as fairly within the pale, and claim communication with you as a christian and a servant, however unworthy, of that Being whose precepts I desire to learn, and endeavour to teach; at any rate, Madam," continued this liberal divine, " I may be allowed to pray for you, and your amiable daughter, which I have not ceased to do for the last fourteen days; and, as I never yet offered a supplication to the father of mercies, which did not come from my heart, so, I am persuaded, you will not be apprehensive that the oraisons of a catholic priest will be injurious to you, even though the unworthiness.

thiness of him, by whom they are offered, should render them ineffectual."

You may be assured, my dear Louisa, that we did not slight the advances of our eloquent and liberal-minded visitor; we ranked him not only among the number of our acquaintance, but the list of our most intimate and valued friends received honor by the addition to it of a name, to which envy has never yet annexed an idea of reproach, nor malevolence made the subject of detraction.

M. Bondit, unhappily for his acquaintance, his friends, but, most of all, for his parishioners, has measured the far greater part of the years allotted to man, being now somewhat advanced beyond his grand climacteric, though an uninterrupted course of temperance has preserved

served to him the full vigour of his constitution, and the unruffled tranquillity of mind, which conscious rectitude can alone inspire, has thrown a beam of pleasure on his countenance, which effaces the wrinkles of age, and sets at a distance, the alarming apprehensions which would arise from the prospect of his mortality.

The curacy which he has enjoyed near forty years, produces annually about nine hundred livres, or somewhat less than forty pounds English; and with this income, to which are added, the advantages of a house, potagerie, orchard, and field, does this worthy and happy being enjoy the blessings of competence and independence, and deal out, in no scanty proportions, comfort to the afflicted, succour to the oppressed, and relief to the indigent: For never has his

heart

heart refused to participate in the sorrows of the unfortunate, or his hand to minister to the necessities of the distressed.

In the exercise of his religious functions, he is sanctimoniously exact; nor will any secular calls, those of humanity excepted, induce him to omit the most regular and constant performance of his public duty; yet he has been frequently known to dispense with a holiday service, for the purpose of visiting a family, who had unhappily fallen under the censure of the law; and he once absented himself from his church on a Sunday, and travelled to the capital of the province, to procure the release of one of his parishioners, who had been committed to prison for a debt, which

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He incurred in an unsuccessful attempt, to deprive his benefactor of his dues.

Of all mankind he is the most cheerful; and religion, which is but another word for righteousness, wears in him so pleasing an aspect, that no doubt can remain, "but her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

I have now brought you acquainted with those with whom we live in such a degree of intimacy, as may truly be said to constitute friendship; Monsieur de Beaudesert has adopted me, and permits me to call him father; and with parental fondness, endeavours to divert my attention from retrospective scenes of horror, by engaging me in amusements, calculated to draw off my mind from reflection, and fix it on some immediate object; and for this purpose, he has recommended

commended to me a course of studies in botany, and what is called natural or experimental philosophy, in which he has the goodness to be my instructor; and the Marquis politely desires to enter himself as my fellow student, though I perceive he has already made a greater progress in these sciences than I shall ever attain to, though I should devote my whole life to the pursuit.

The Marchioness and my mother are sworn sisters; so here I have another relation, whose kind attentions, and tender affiduities, are invariably directed to alleviate the burthen of my sorrow, and bring back my mind to a capability of enjoying that happiness, which her partiality to your friend induces her to declare, she is assured, must be yet in store for me.

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The Curé (are you not in love with the honest Curé, my Louisa ? If not, I must tell you, you are absolutely singular) is the life and soul of our little society, for having no cares upon his mind, and having hardly ever felt a pang on his own account, his serenity is uninterrupted, and his chearfulness in a perpetual flow ; he says his heart is too grateful for the blessings of Heaven to permit his being sad ; and as he has no troubles to complain of, it is his duty to chase the clouds of uneasiness from the brows of those to whom providence has been less favourable ; and this he thinks, and I believe very justly, is more likely to be effected by the promotion of innocent mirth, than by the serious strain of consolation, which it is impossible to offer, without tearing open the

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half healed wound of the sufferer, by reminding him of the cause of his grief.

But though I have given my Louisa a complete list of our friends, I have not yet presented her with the catalogue of our acquaintance, or, to speak with more propriety, of our occasional companions; nor must she expect me to perform a task so disagreeable, for what can possibly be more unpleasant than to describe characters, which have no leading features, and who are only distinguished from each other, by a greater or lesser degree of insignificance? And this must of necessity be the case with the gentry, or as they here stiled the noblesse of a country, where they are deprived of the benefit of education by poverty, and restrained from bettering their fortunes, and improving their manners

ners in trade, commerce, or adventure, by a false and contemptible pride.

Yet there is another class of men of whom I have hitherto made no mention, and who it would be extremely difficult to rank in any of the orders already noticed, as they are actually a distant species of self-created beings, standing alone, unacknowledged by, and unconnected with the rich nobility, the nobl^éss^e and the burgeoises: and this class is composed of such as having acquired fortunes either in trade, or the finances, have retired from these occupations, and have either procured *titres de nobl^éss^e*; or presuming on their riches have ventured to set up for themselves, and depend that the weight of their purses will preponderate against the

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meanness of their origins, and the want of inherent consequence.

Of this class is my lover — nay, start not my Louisa! — my earnest, my importunate lover, Mons. Gimbert; of him my Louisa will demand a full account and a perfect description; but alas! I am unequal to the task, my spirits, which, in the hours of youthful ease, never rose to the top of the tube, are now sunk beneath its base; mirth and pleasantry, which were only occasional visitors in my halcyon days, and never condescended to "*dwell with me,*" have long ceased even to notice your Juliana; nor has her perturbed bosom been of late capable of giving a welcome to those once desirable guests.

And, is an importunate and earnest lover then a subject for mirth and pleasure?

fantry? methinks, I hear my Louisa ask — yes, such a lover as Mons. Gimbert — but in good time here comes the facetious Curé, to him will I commit the charge of pourtraying my inamorato; and if his pen fails of affording you a satisfactory answer to the question I have demanded for you, his *right hand must have forgot its cunning.*

Nay, no excuse, my good Mons. Bon-dit — “ You are no stranger to the lady — she knows, and admires you, but that is a matter of course ” — “ Nay, madam, if you bribe me so highly, it is impossible to resist, but you promise to translate ” — “ it is unnecessary, my correspondent is an excellent French-woman ” — “ but for the sake of uniformity ” — “ well, I do promise, and now preliminaries are settled, take the pen, ” — “ I obey. ”

Mons. Gimbert is a man, (I ask pardon, *was* a man, for by my observation he is at this time returned to a state of childhood) whose natural appearance was never calculated to captivate, but nature and Mons. Gimbert have long ago parted company; nature is gone back to the cottage where he was born, to revel with his brothers grandchildren; and Mons. Gimbert, by the aid and assistance of paints, cosmetics, and brushes, a taylor, a friseur, a valet de chambre, and a jest book; has attempted to exchange deformity for beauty, age for youth, and dullness personified, for sprightliness and wit.

At twenty, Mons. Gimbert, then a petty commé in the office of one of the Fermiers Generaux, was distinguished by the homeliness of his person, the aukward-

awkwardness of his manners, and the rusticity of his dress ; tho' he measured full six feet, he could not be called tall, as his height did not consist of a due proportion of parts, for his head was long, his neck short, his body comprised in his breast and stomach, and his legs extended to such an enormity of length, that they rather resembled the supporters of a spider's than of a human body ; and from this peculiarity of configuration he obtained the emphatic denomination of *long Gimbert*.--- His face, arms, hands, legs and feet, were exact representations of the extremities of the dread destroyer ; and if he had been armed with the same weapon he might have passed for his prototype : yet the flesh which should have cloathed these maigre limbs, was only misplaced,

for his shoulders bore a load sufficient to have formed them into proportion---his mouth resembled that of a fucking fish, and was almost equally unfurnished with teeth; and, like the same animal, his short, flat and broad nose appeared to be inserted in his upper lip:---his eyes --- yes he must have had eyes at twenty, for the dim remains of them still twinkle in their orbits---his eyes were of that species of grey-green colour, by which the feline race is so eminently adorned nor were they inferior in lustre, though very considerably in size, to those of that sagacious quadruped;--- his forehead rose to an ellipsis, and bearing a perfect proportion in height and figure to his chin, his whole visage represented the form of an Indian canoe, and the summit was crowned with

with a scanty sprinkling of coarse black hair; which the efforts of a *peruquier* at *six sols par semaine* could with difficulty model into a covering for his head.

His mountain-blue coat was of the true Alsatian cut, and had descended in a direct and uninterrupted line of succession from his great grandfather; and his orange coloured waistcoat and breeches might at least have disputed the claim of antiquity;---a hat was an expensive, and unnecessary incumbrance, for Monsieur Gimbert was always dressed: And he was too attentive to every article of œconomy to overlook even a possibility of indulging this virtuous propensity.

Such was Monsieur Gimbert, the inmate of a ninth story, *sur le pont de St. Michel*; where he gratified his app-

tit three days in the week with a soup of his own preparing, unless the calendar added an extraordinary maigre day to the number of those which were voluntarily devoted by him to food of less price, or rigorous fasting.

But his parsimony and unremitting industry having recommended him to the principal of the office in which he was engaged, who, from the lowest order of lacqueys, had raised himself to the employment he now enjoyed, and had squeezed out of it the enormous sum of three millions of livres; and induced a belief that he might venture to divide the care of making depredations on the public, and plundering individuals, with a coadjutor whose talents and dispositions appeared so perfectly conformable to his own; he disclosed his gener-

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ous intentions to this fortunate dependent, and perceiving him equally ready to co-operate in his laudable schemes of rapine; and grateful for the favour conferred on him, he opened to him the arcana of the bureau, and instated him in a participation of the profits.

By a regular progression Mons. Gimbert succeeded to the same employment, and by pursuing the same means with a still greater degree of rapacity than his predecessor, and forbearing to increase his expences in any proportion to his gains, he acquired a fortune of much greater extent, and having seized an opportunity of protecting his wealth from the dangers of enquiry, by advancing a considerable sum to the Minister in a moment of exigency, with an appearance of liberality, though on terms ultimately ad-

vantageous to himself, he quitted his office, and retired to enjoy the riches which had flowed from the united sources of peculation and accumulation, in a course of forty years, dedicated wholly to avarice and parsimony.

As the former passion was now gratified to its fullest extent, the latter began, in certain instances, to relax, and to be superceded by vanity and ostentation; but it was in externals only that the alteration took place; for the kitchen of an elegant house which he purchased, remained totally unfurnished, and he slept in a little room over the place which contained that carriage on which he had bestowed the most costly and splendid ornaments.

Though his dress now vied with his equipage in sumptuousness, yet the care
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of the several articles which composed it, occupied much more of his time than he allotted to the exhibition of his finery ; and brushing, dusting, airing, folding, and papering his cloaths, were the employments of a considerable portion of the day ; from the remainder much time was to be deducted for the purposes of dressing, an avocation neither easily performed, or hastily dispatched, as it was impossible to dispense with the several necessary processes of padding, bolstering, painting, frizzing, curling, powdering ; and the supply of calves to the legs, and teeth to the gums ; each distinct article of which required the most nice and critical attention, as a failure, in any one point, might have been fatal to the figure, and subversive to the newly-acquired im-

portance of this antiquated beau, and self-created man of fashion.

And, to compleat the assemblage of follies, behold this living automaton, high in pursuit of the semblance of vices, for the substance of which age and decrepitude have long ago disqualified him ! A mistress is procured from the Opera ; equipage, *petites soupers*, and pecuniary appointments are the sacrifices to this useless effort of incorrigible vanity ; and, at the expence of a thousand crowns a month, he enjoys the enviable reputation of supporting the boundless extravagance of Mademoiselle de Quesny, who has already destroyed the more limited fortunes of five men of quality, two directors of finance, and a governor of Pondicherry, remaining, at forty-five, the object of fashionable admiration !

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youth, or beauty, being, by no means, requisites in the accomplishments of a mistress of the *ton*.

Nor, among the improvements of Monsieur de Gimbert, has the cultivation of his mind been neglected: for the first sixty years of his life his literature had been confined to reading, writing, and numerical calculation, and his studies had been of the useful kind only; for he had never opened a book on any other subject than finances; the labours of his pen had, indeed, produced volumes, but they consisted of items in account; and his arithmetical knowledge had never been extended to scientific investigation; the enumeration of his gains, and the addition of interest to principal, being a much more profitable, and,

and, of course, more pleasant applications of this valuable branch of learning.

But, in his new sphere of action, he was to mix with the world at large; his conversation must now turn on general subjects, nor could he entertain his fashionable acquaintance with the occurrences of the accompting-house: books, he observed, furnished perpetual topics for argument and discussion; but he was incapable of bearing a part in either; and determined to maintain the character he had assumed, he entered himself as a pupil to a celebrated Abbé, who undertook to qualify him for an intercourse with the polite circles; and, as an introductory lesson, recommended to him certain light productions, calculated to accommodate a memory, by

no means remarkably retentive; with short stories, trite anecdotes, and highly-seasoned *bon mots*, and laid down certain rules and instructions for his application of these acquisitions, in such a manner as might convey an idea of his possessing knowledge of a superior kind, though he gave way to those sallies of wit and humour.

His person, thus equipped, and his mind stored, he launched his crazy bark upon the ocean of high life, and attempted to sail on the ever-flowing tide of fashionable folly and dissipation; but the vessel was soon discovered to be unserviceable, and the pilot unskilful; buffeted by the storms of contempt, and the gusts of ridicule, he found it impossible to keep the sea, yet there was no port to which he could return; he
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had totally changed his course of life, and abandoned the companions of his penury, and he dreaded the fate of the daw, in the fable, should he venture among them in his borrowed plumes ; those with whom he had fondly flattered himself he might associate, either refused to receive him, or admitted him for the sole purpose of making his ignorance and extravagance the subjects of their diversion : to the avowed infidelity of his mistress he could have submitted without a murmur ; but her rapacity was insatiable, and her expences had no bounds : she squandered, without remorse, the revenue of a prince, and insulted him with declarations, that his supplies were insufficient to procure her those pleasures which could alone compensate her loss of consequence, in

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condescending to listen to his propositions: in his attempts to retail his stock of wit and literature, his blunders had placed his ignorance in the most conspicuous point of view; and his misapplications had procured him enemies, from whose vengeance he could only escape by the most ignominious and humiliating concessions: the very appearance of his gaudy equipage excited peals of laughter, and the name of *long Gimbert* was never announced without producing the most sarcastic remarks on his person, dress, and pretensions.

Thus repulsed in his efforts to make his way in the gay world, and equally unable and unwilling to descend again to his primitive obscurity, he abandoned his mistres, quitted the metropolis, and purchased the mansion and lands of a spend-

a spendthrift nobleman in this province ; which, being equally remote from the place which gave him birth, and from that in which he had so unsuccessfully attempted to figure, would, he hoped, shelter him from the disgraces he had incurred in his endeavours to introduce himself to the *beau monde*.

He has now been settled here about three years, during which time the castle, and its demesnes, have undergone the most extraordinary changes that ignorance, absurdity, and false taste, could possibly suggest, or give birth to : gothic simplicity has been loaded with modern ornaments, and the four colours of gold displayed on fretted roofs and adamantine window frames ; the antient avenues have given place to firs and flowering shrubs ; Venus now exhibits

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her charms unprotected by Cytherean groves, Pan gambols on a bowling-green, and Ceres lurks among the roses; the whole heathen mythology is inverted: Jove hurls his thunderbolt at a serpentine river, and the dread trident of Neptune is peaceably extended over a corn field.

Nor is this subversion of order confined to appearances only, the hospitality of the former lords of the mansion now exist only in odious comparison; no longer smoke the chimneys, no longer exhale the fumes of the well supplied kitchen, to regale with joyful expectation the hungry attendants at the gate; all is bleak without, all gloom and silence within, except when the creaking hinges announce the departure or return of the gaudy pageant, exhibited

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in the daily tour of this ape of dignity, among his oppressed and disgusted tenants and dependants.

Yet a hope still remains,---Monsieur Gimbert is in love:---Auspicious be his devoirs to the fair object of his affections! As a lover;---but I resign my pen---Miss Monteville, the remainder of the task is yours, nor shall I attempt to describe a passion, the effects of which I have been forbidden to feel.

So far the good Curé---and now, my dear Louisa, what do you think of my lover Mons. Gimbert? do you apprehend, if I had a heart to lose, it would be in much danger? or is it necessary for me to communicate to you the Quixote-like extravagancies of his addresses? No, my worthy biographer, has introduced you to so perfect an acquaintance

quaintance with Mons. Gimbert, that you need no illustrations from his courtship.

Nor yet from the account I have given you of my friends, will you be at any loss to judge of the disposition of our time, not one moment of which, but for those unconquerable regrets which not the most delightful society can remove, would hang heavy on our hands ; by the interest of Mons. le Marquis, our little library has notwithstanding the severe interdicts of the government of this country against the importation of foreign books, been safely conveyed to us, and this is a constant fund of amusement, the servants of Madam de Suzaincourt beset our door from day to day, with the most pressing invitations to the Castle, and if we signify our acceptance,

ceptance, the good Marquis is ready to escort us in his or the Lady's carriage; we have very often angling parties, and still more frequently we make excursions to the sea shore, at the distance of five or six miles, where we dine among the rocks, and admire the great deep, and the wisdom and power of that being, who hath placed "*therein, things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts; where go the ships, and where is that Leviathan, who he hath made to take his pastime therein.*"

In these little parties we are generally accompanied by the truly amiable Beau-desert, and, as often as the duties of his function will admit, by our highly esteemed friend the Curé, whose cheerful and accommodating spirit enlivens our conversation, and dispels for a time the

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melancholy, but too visible in the Marquis, as well as your Juliana.

You are now, my dear Louisa, possessed of my whole history, and of every secret of my heart; every source of grief and of joy is open to you, and you may judge of my pains and my pleasures; for, oppressed as I am with my own afflictions, my heart is yet alive to sensations of joy, in the welfare and happiness of my friends; nor does it refuse to participate in the pleasure which results from their enjoyment of the blessings from which I am precluded.

And, after all, is not mine a common lot? and does not every day's experience teach us, that the human race is born to adversity? of which some are destined to taste in early life; and others, still more unhappily, at that period of

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it, when the spirit, nursed in ease and tranquillity, and unsuspicuously reposing in the lap of long continued propriety, its vigor untried, and its strength untried, receives at once the inevitable blow, and, incapable of bending to the storm, breaks at the first assault of misfortune? And, ought I not to rejoice that the shock assailed me at the season when reason advancing only to maturity, became every day more capable of enabling me to resist its impulse.

Yes, my Louisa, your Juliana will yet be comparatively happy; though the joys of mutual love are denied her, yet the pleasures, the calm, the untroubled pleasures of friendship are her's;---though her hopes of support and protection are laid low, yet she may long enjoy the fostering care and affection

tion of the kindest and best of parents; And though she can never more return to the gaieties and festivities of the world, yet she may partake of its more rational amusements, and derive comfort and satisfaction from the performance of the virtuous and pleasing offices of humanity and benevolence.

But, my Louisa is unhappy! ah, why cannot I fly to her, and offer the consolation of the purest and most lively friendship? or rather, why will she not seek the restoration of her peace, if neither friends nor fortune can affect it; in that humble

— And undisturb'd retreat,
Upon whose roof no storms of fortune beat;
Within whose walls no gusts of passion blow,
Too mean for envy, and for hate too low:

Where

Where her Juliana has practised with success lessons of patience and resignation, and blunted the keen edge of sorrow, by religion, reason, and reflection?

Accept then, my sweet friend, this invitation, not to splendor and elegance, but to composure and content; leave behind you the unnecessary, and, to the wounded heart, useless burthens of pomp, equipage, and grandeur; bring with you only your cares, and they shall be diffused by the tender soothings of your Juliana's friendship; with your tears she will mingle her's, and with the united stream shall our sorrows and disquietudes glide away, till returning joys shall re-inspire the bosom of my Louisa, and Peace that of her

Ever affectionate,

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

L E T T E R VII.

MISS LOUISA CHARLTON.

T O

MISS MONTEVILLE.

HOW gladly would I avail myself of the pleasing invitation, which in terms so grateful to my heart, is pressed on me by my Juliana, was I at liberty to follow the dictates of my own inclination, which too strongly urges me to obey a call in which my peace and happiness are interested.

But, though the partial favor of my uncle, has in point of fortune made me largely independant, yet, has not this indulgence exempted me from the discharge of the relative duties of life, or

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furnished me with pretences to avoid the payment of those debts of gratitude and affection, which are due to a very excellent mother, and a kind, friendly, and generous sister.

My mother, you have often heard, had always such an aversion to travelling, that, though the professional engagements of my father obliged him to reside in town for several months in the year, yet he could never prevail on her to accompany him; and, my sister's health which has from her infancy been precarious, furnished her with solid and reasonable objections, to her compliance with the solicitations of my father, that he might not be obliged to suffer this annual separation.

I was of course his companion from the moment I was capable of doing the honors

honors of his table, which I undertook at so early an age as fourteen, in compliance with his wishes, and under the flattering encouragement of my mother, who was extremely earnest with me to offer my services to my father, in a way, which would induce him to dispense with her attendance on him; and, which she saw would be agreeable to myself, who enjoyed uninterrupted health, and spirits of the most lively turn; and as my uncle, who resided almost constantly in town, being engaged in very extensive mercantile concerns, was a very frequent visitor at my father's; he very soon became so fond of me, that, when my father's business permitted him to return to my mother, he prevailed on him to leave me behind; and, during the life of my father, my time was pretty equally di-

vided between him and my uncle, and I presided by turns at the tables of the two brothers, my uncle's liberality furnishing me with the means of making a splendid appearance, without being in the smallest article expensive to my father, whose fortunes, though he possessed the small remains of the family estate, were by no means equal to those of his younger and more prudent, though not more industrious, brother; my father having by an attempt to emulate the dignity of his ancestors, lessened them in the early part of his life, and incurred such burthens as his future assiduity had not enabled him to shake off.

My father's death, which happened when I was about seventeen, made it necessary for me to hasten immediately to my mother, at this house where she had constantly resided,

resided, and where my father died ; the intricacy of whose affairs, and the attention which my mother was necessarily obliged to pay to the settlement of them, added to the sincere regret she felt at the loss of a husband, whose indulgence and tenderness she had for twenty years experienced, conspired to injure her health, and a severe attack of a fever could not be so effectually resisted, as to leave her in perfect re-establishment ; an intermitting disorder followed, from which, she was not perfectly recovered at the expiration of the year.

My uncle was unmarried, and too far advanced in years to admit of a supposition that he would ever enter into connubial engagements ; and, as his frequently repeated declarations in my favor, had left no doubt on my father's

mind, that he intended the greatest part of his fortune for me; he was induced, under this persuasion, to make so very considerable a difference between my sister and myself, in the disposition of his effects, that he left me little more than a kind token of his affection, and to my sister the family estate, which was the whole of his possessions, subject only to my mother's jointure, and my little legacy.

Nor did this partial distribution, excite in me the smallest dissatisfaction, fully convinced, that my deceased parent was actuated by no motives of preferable regard, to make this distinction between his children, but, that he was influenced by the most perfect confidence in the assurances of his brother, that I should be much more amply provided for, than
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by enjoying an equal share of his fortune; I not only submitted without a murmur to his will, but actually rejoiced in the superiority which my sister would enjoy during the life of my uncle, and the affluence she would possess without the painful sensation of obligations to a younger sister, whose affection for her was too sincere, and too delicate to be gratified by the power of conferring them.

For some months after the death of my father, my correspondence with my uncle was kept up with all the warmth of affection, and wishes for my speedy return to him on his part; and on mine, with such expressions of duty, gratitude, and esteem, as a heart fully sensible of kindness, and the weight of experienced

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and promised obligation would naturally dictate.

But at length, my uncle's letters became less frequent, and by degrees betrayed such an appearance of coolness, in the altered stile, and manifestly constrained assurances of continued regard, that the change was too obvious to escape observation, and I besought him, in the most earnest terms, to inform me, by what offence I had forfeited the esteem with which he had hitherto favoured me, the obtaining which, had been the pride of my life, and the possession of it, the chief object of my wishes.

At the distance of a month, I received an answer to this letter, which fully justified all my apprehensions; it began with an apology for the apparent neglect of a correspondence, which, was highly

valuable

valuable to him, though he should soon be in a situation which would call for a division of his affections; and after some communications respecting my town acquaintance, the letter concluded with a request to me, not to be alarmed at the hint he had given me, as no event could make such a change in his regards for me, as would induce him to forget the promises he had made, that my establishment in life should be his care.

You may easily conceive, that, on the receipt of this letter, all my sanguine expectation of fortune vanished at once. I foresaw immediately what would happen; and I was perfectly convinced that the circumstance to which I knew he must allude, would effectually cut me off from every hope which I had

entertained, and my poor father had relied on, of my succeeding to the fortune of my uncle.

And before I could collect myself sufficiently to answer this extraordinary letter, a still less welcome one arrived, formally announcing his marriage with a young woman, whom he had taken into his house, and placed at the head of his table during my absence, and whose company, conversation, and management of his house, he found so agreeable, and useful to him, that he had thought it prudent to connect her interest with his, that he might no more be exposed to the inconveniences which he had endured from my leaving him without a companion, a friend, or a house-keeper; and, to fill to the brim this cup of comfort, he inclos'd to me an assignment of

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two thousand pounds stock, which he said, he had thought it adviseable to make, previous to his marriage, as after the ceremony was performed, he did not conceive he had a right to make any disposition of his fortune to the prejudice of her, who was undoubtedly entitled to share the whole with him.

And thus, with considerably less than a third part of what would have been my portion, had my father's fortune been equally divided, was your Louisa renounced by that uncle whose solemn engagements had deceived her departed parent into an act of palpable injustice, and whose constantly repeated declarations had excited expectations, which were actually forced upon her mind by reiterated promises, and assurances.

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It was upon this occasion that my sister displayed a degree of affection, and generosity, as exalted as it was uncommon, immediately after the communication of this event, without consulting her mother, or giving me the most distant hint of her intentions, she applied to the attorney who had assisted in the settlement of my father's affairs, and directed him to prepare proper deeds for conveying to me one half of her estate; and the business being completed, she put the papers into my hands, with a solemn adjuration, that as I valued her peace of mind and happiness, I should never even mention in her presence, a circumstance which had afforded her more satisfaction than the enjoyment of millions could bestow, a satisfaction which could only be lessened by the apprehension that

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I could feel, as an obligation, what appealed to her to be merely an act of justice.

Thus enjoined, I was compelled to be silent, but my heart bore testimony to her liberality ; and to my affection, which even this proof of her's could not heighten, was added gratitude and admiration.

My mother's health, which was not yet perfectly restored, and the convalescent state of my sister's, preventing us from visiting, or receiving much company, we lived in perfect retirement ; and, except with a family or two, who were upon terms of unceremonious intimacy with us, we had little communication with the world.

But, about a year after the defeat of my fortunes by my uncle's marriage, some near relations of one of those families

lies arrived from the metropolis, in their way to a western watering-place; and, as usual on such occasions, they were introduced by our friends to their different acquaintance, and, among the rest, to my mother, my sister, and myself, who were their nearest neighbours.

At the first visit of the strangers, one of the ladies, in the course of conversation, mentioned Mr. Charlton, of the Adelphi; and, being asked by my mother if she had any acquaintance with that gentleman, she answered, No; but that his name had lately appeared frequently in the public papers, on account of some extraordinary conduct of his wife, to whom, as she apprehended from these public accounts, he had not been long married, and whose infidelity was said to be heightened by her ingratitude,

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as he had taken her without a fortune, and raised her, from a very humble and dependant situation, to affluence and elegance.

If the place of residence had not been decisive, every other circumstance concurred to convince me, that my uncle had been unfortunate in his choice ; nor was the remembrance of his former kindness to me so far effaced by the manner in which he thought fit to cast me off, but that I offered the tribute of a tear to his misfortunes ; and now regretted, on his account, the separation which had been productive of such unhappiness to this still respected relation.

My mother's enquiries, for it was not a subject on which I could be inquisitive, produced no particulars ; the lady declared herself a stranger to Mr. Charl-

ton,

ton; and wholly unacquainted with any circumstances but such as were divulged in the newspapers, or circulated in the chit chat of the town; and as it would have been indelicate for me to have applied to any friend, in the metropolis, for information, I was obliged to submit to extreme anxiety, without any immediate probability of its being removed.

But, about ten days after the receipt of this very disagreeable intelligence, we were surprized by the arrival of my uncle's chief and confidential clerk, who had, for many years, stood high in his favor; and was, on this occasion, dispatched to me with the following letter:

“ My dear Niece,

“ The conduct of the unhappy woman, to whom my imprudence had unfortunately

fortunately given an affinity to you, of which she was wholly unworthy, having compelled me, though most reluctantly, to take legal measures for restoring me to liberty and peace: I again solicit you to fill the department in my family, and my affections, which you once held with so much credit to yourself, and comfort to me; nor must my good Louisa be discouraged by my informing her, that, to the offices she formerly discharged, must be now added that of nurse to her poor uncle, whose misfortunes, though most deservedly incurred, have broken his spirits, and impaired his health.

“ But you must resolve, my dear Louisa, to leave me no more; whoever is dear to you will always be welcome to me; and you must, in future, receive

visits

visits from your friends, instead of paying them: your absence from me has once rendered me completely miserable; and it is only from your continued presence that I can hope for health and quiet; for your tenderness will alleviate my bodily pains, and your affectionate assiduity sooth my cares.

“ Mr. Clarges, your old friend and admirer, rejoices at being the bearer of this invitation, though the honest man himself asserts, that his joy, on this occasion, arises in part from interested motives; as he, and his family, lost their best friend, when you left the Adelphi: he will wait your determination; and, should it be as favourable as my sanguine hopes and wishes suggest, will attend you to town.

“ Let

" Let us then meet, and speedily, my best beloved niece : I will immediately make such a disposition of my fortune, as shall convince you of my affection ; but we must part no more : and, whenever you meet with a man, worthy your hand, I shall stipulate, that he shall take the uncle as well as the niece ; a burthen, of which my present infirmities presage but a very short continuance.

" Be so kind to charge yourself with my sincere regards to your good mother and sister, to whom I would apologize for this attempt to seduce from them the child and sister of their love, but that my indisposition is so severe, that nothing less than the great object I have in view, would have tempted me to undertake the task of writing at all.

" Adieu !

“ Adieu ! my dear Louisa, for a few days only----for I cannot collect fortitude enough even to doubt your compliance with the earnest request of

Your truly affectionate uncle,

EUSEBIUS CHARLTON.”

If I had ever felt the smallest degree of resentment for the manner in which I had been cast off by this friend of my childhood and youth, the first mention of his misfortunes had wiped it from my memory ; but the alarming state of his health, and the still more melancholy depression of his spirits, awakened all my affection for him ; and, without the most distant view to my own advantage, I would willingly have sacrificed all the pleasures and comforts of my life, to have

have procured him ease, and administered consolation to him: of my duty to my dear mother, I had the most lively sense; and my affection for her was as warm and sincere, as her kindness and indulgence merited; to my sister, I was bound by the united force of love and gratitude; yet even these have given way to sentiments of pity and compassion for my unfortunate suffering uncle: my regrets, at parting with my nearer relations, were soothed by the consideration of the confidence he had reposed in my duty and affection, and the expectations he had formed of receiving relief from the renewal of my tender assiduities; and I hesitated not a moment to prepare for a journey, on which, in his opinion, depended the restoration of his health, and his recovery from mental disquietude.

The

The same reflections enabled me to support the parting with my mother and sister, and the fatigue of travelling, without allowing any intermission for rest, or even refreshment, till I reached my uncle's house; so earnest were my wishes for the accomplishment of his, that I would not indulge myself in either, to protract an absence at which he had expressed so much uneasiness.

Though I found his health in a much worse state than even my apprehensions had suggested, yet he seemed to derive immediate relief from my arrival; and he expressed his satisfaction at my ready acquiescence with his request, in terms so affecting and self-condemning, that I felt my mind oppressed by his kindness, and wounded by his humiliation, and poured out the genuine effusions of

of my affectionate and dutiful regard, in strains so grateful to my afflicted relation, that he welcomed me as the child of his bosom, his once, and now forever adopted daughter, to the promotion of whose happiness he would dedicate all the remainder of his life, in return for a compliance which alone would render it comfortable to himself.

But the shock which his sensibility had received, was too rude to be recovered; the cure of his complaints was beyond the reach of medicine, and his spirits had been too severely affected to resume their strength: the utmost efforts of that sprightly vein, which was once his joy and admiration, and the most pathetic addresses of sympathizing consolation, were equally exerted in vain; every alarming symptom became aggravated,

aggravated, and he was ordered to Scarborough, as a *dernier resort*, though without a promised hope of his recovery.

My attendance on him there was as unremitting as in his own house; so that, unless when a remission of his pains enabled him to go abroad, I seldom appeared in public; nor would my own inclinations have disposed me to leave him, for a moment, though I was sometimes obliged to yield to his absolute commands, that I should partake of some of the amusements of the place.

In obedience to his injunctions, I one evening accompanied a party of our friends to the rooms, and, contrary to my intention, was prevailed on, by the solicitations of the master of the ceremonies, to dance with a young foreigner; who, coming late to the rooms, and being

being unprovided with a partner, had requested my hand, which I had, at first, refused.

As he spoke no English, he was exceedingly delighted to find his partner acquainted with his own language ; and he congratulated himself on his good fortune, in terms so very elegant, and so pleasingly flattering, that he engaged my attention, and drew me into general conversation ; in the course of which, I found him so entertaining, so unassuming, and, contrary to the general characteristic of his country, so diffident and unpretending, that I no longer regretted my having given up the resolution I had formed, not to take any part in the entertainments of the night.

Nor did I feel myself dissatisfied, when, at the close of the evening, my

very engaging partner requested my permission to pay his respects to me in the morning; an indulgence which he gallantly said, he was compelled, by an impulse beyond the power of resistance to solicit; though he was filled with apprehensions that, as a stranger, unprotected and unintroduced, he must not entertain even a hope of succeeding in the attainment of so distinguished an honor.

But I was not in a disposition to refuse to him such a trifling mark of my esteem; I answered his request by presenting him with a ticket of my name and residence, and retired in a state of mind very different from that in which I had entered the rooms; though I was yet unacquainted with the revolution, which a very few hours had effected,
in

in the peace and tranquility of my bosom.

At my return home, I found my uncle not yet retired to rest; and, as I knew he was always amused by my accounts of the little occurrences of public places, and that my having joined in the diversions of the evening, would afford him particular satisfaction, I recounted to him the circumstances which led me into the dance, and described to him the person and manners of my partner, with a degree of minuteness so very unusual, that the obvious difference did not escape his observation, though he only remarked, with a smile, that he was afraid his little Lucy was captivated by a capering Frenchman.

But light, and apparently casual as was this expression of apprehension by

my uncle, it struck me so forcibly, as to occasion not only an agitation of mind, but such a change of countenance as gave a serious alarm to my penetrating and observing relation; though he had too much delicacy, and too sincere a regard for me, to press a subject, which, he had reason to suppose, was painful to me.

And, as I was well aware that I had betrayed myself, and discovered emotions to the occasion of which, till I took my own thoughts to council, in the hours which had, in preceding nights, been devoted to peaceful slumber, I was myself a stranger; I was not surprized to find my uncle in the breakfast-room the next morning, some hours before his usual time of appearance.

We

We had hardly begun our meal, before the name of Monsieur D'Heston, was announced ; and fresh perturbations were excited in the mind of your Louisa, by a pointed and strongly accented question from my uncle, whether I had any objection to receive his visit ? His immediate appearance, however, spared me the pain of an answer, and deprived the mischievous querist of the little pleasantry he had intended to create from my confusion.

The stranger paid his compliments both to me, and my uncle, in terms which bespoke his good opinion ; and his open, candid, and unreserved behaviour, in the course of two hours conversation, had so effectually engaged his esteem, that he requested Monsieur

D'Heston

D'Heston to repeat his visit; and expressed his wishes, that it might be agreeable to him to cultivate an acquaintance, from which he promised himself much satisfaction.

Thus invited, the amiable Frenchman became our frequent guest; and, in the progress of an intimacy, which soon ripened into friendship, between himself and my uncle, we learnt from him, that he was an officer, of considerable rank, in the army of the King of France; that he had been conducted to England as a prisoner of war, and was now on his parole, expecting hourly the permission of the British government to return to his friends; and that his health not being perfectly established, he had been advised to spend the intermediate time at a watering-

watering-place, for the benefits of air, bathing, and amusement.

But I have already tired my own fingers, and your patience, and shall give both the indulgence of a pause, for a few hours.

LOUISA CHARLTON.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.